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HANDBOOK

FOR

TRAVELLERS IN SWITZERLAND  
SAVOY, AND PIEDMONT.

*E. Norton*

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**HANDBOOK**

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**AND THE**

**ALPS OF SAVOY AND PIEDMONT.**

**Twelfth Edition,**

**CORRECTED; WITH TRAVELLING MAPS, PLANS OF TOWNS, ETC.**

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**1867.**

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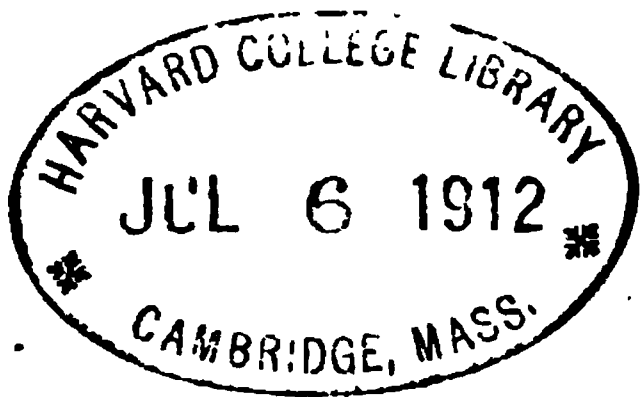
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## P R E F A C E.

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THE Handbook for Switzerland has now reached the twelfth edition, and owes its success, and the favour of travellers, and the number of imitators it has found in France and Germany, to the circumstance that its information was drawn from practical knowledge of the country, gained on the spot; and that it was not a mere compilation from other books. The author, in the first instance by his own travels through the country, and afterwards by the aid of experienced editors whom he has called in to revise the book, has endeavoured to bring down the information of every edition to the time of its appearance, taking note of all changes and improvements that have occurred.

The Handbook was the first guide which, instead of stopping short north of the Great Chain, carried travellers down to the more sunny and beautiful peaks and valleys of the Italian Alps. It still remains *the only complete single* Guide-book for Savoy and Piedmont, as well as for Switzerland. These regions, previously a *terra incognita* to Englishmen, are now equally resorted to and held in as great repute for the beauty and grandeur of their scenery.

The routes in the Handbook have been rearranged, as far as possible, to suit the convenience of travellers—all changes and improvements in roads, railways, and steamers have been noticed—and a vast number of new roads over little-known Alpine Passes have been described in the present and preceding editions. Plans of the principal towns are added. This edition is corrected as far as possible up to the time of publication, and contains notices of the railways which now bring Switzerland almost, as it were, to our own door.

An Index has been prepared for the Swiss Handbook, independent of the Section relating to Savoy and Piedmont; and as each is furnished with a map, the two parts may be bound up separately for convenience, without injuring the completeness of either.

\* \* \* 'The Knapsack Guide to Switzerland, Savoy, and Piedmont, 2nd Edition, Corrected, 1867,' furnishes a more portable and succinct Guide to those countries.

# SWITZERLAND.

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# SWITZERLAND.

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### § 1. PASSPORTS AND CUSTOM-HOUSES.

THE passport system is abolished in Bavaria, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, France, Italy, Prussia, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Austria. Notwithstanding this no English traveller should venture abroad for a journey of any length without a passport as a *proof of his nationality*, and as a means of identification. He may otherwise be marched under arrest, for miles along a hot, dusty road, to some Sous Préfet's residence, under the suspicion of his not being an Englishman at all. A passport can be procured at the Foreign-Office, Downing Street, by leaving or sending a letter of recommendation from any M.P., or London banker, magistrate, clergyman, solicitor, or surgeon, and calling or sending the next day for the passport, for which a fee of 2s. is charged. The visa of the Austrian ambassador in London is no longer required.

Those who have not time or a servant at their disposal should forward their letters of recommendation to Lee, 440, Strand, or to Dorrell and Son, 15, Charing Cross, who for a small charge will procure the passports and visas, and will also mount the passport in a case, which some travellers prefer.

*Custom-houses.*—The Swiss now levy import-dues only on a few bulky articles, and no examination of passengers' luggage is made on entering or leaving the country. Examinations are made on entering France, Italy, Austria, or the German States.



## § 2. ROUTES TO SWITZERLAND—SKELETON TOURS.

There are now several routes by which Switzerland may be very speedily reached from London :—

*a.* By Basle from Paris direct, or via Mayence or Cologne, and cross lines up the Rte.

*b.* By Friedrichshafen, via Stuttgart and Ulm.

*c.* By Neuchâtel, via Paris and Dôle the shortest.

*d.* By Geneva.

*a.* BASLE may be reached—

London to Paris, 11 hours; Paris to Basle (railway by Troyes, 13½ hours; by Strasbourg 17 hours).

London to Mayence by Dover, Ostend, and Rhine Railway, 25½ hours; Mayence to Basle (railway) 9 hours. Or

London to Cologne by Antwerp, 28 hours; Cologne to Frankfort (steamer and railway), 15 hours; Frankfort to Basle (railway), 8½ hours (or through to Zürich, 11 hours).

A cheaper but slower route is by Rotterdam and the Rhine.

From Basle the traveller may go—

To Lucerne (railway).

To Berne (railway).

To Zürich (railway).

To Geneva by Bienne, Neuchâtel, Lausanne, &c. (railways and steamer).

To Schaffhausen (railway).

To Constance (railway and steamer).

*b.* FRIEDRICHSHAFEN may be reached—

London to Mayence, 25½ hours; Mayence to Friedrichshafen, 12 hours.

London to Paris, 11 hours; Paris to Friedrichshafen, by Forbach and Ludwigshafen, 25½ hours. This is a very pleasant way of entering Switzerland. From Friedrichshafen the traveller may go to Zürich by Romanshorn (steamer and railway), or to Coire by railway.

*c.* NEUCHÂTEL may be reached—

London to Paris, 11 hours; Paris to Salins by Dijon, 9 hours; Salins to Neuchâtel, about 50 miles, by rail all the way. This is the most direct and quickest route to Switzerland.

*d.* GENEVA may be reached—

London to Paris, 11 hours; Paris to Geneva by Macon (railway), 14½ hours.

*a* or *b* will be adopted by those who wish to visit first Lucerne or the Bernese Oberland; *d* by those who aim at Chamouni and Zermatt.

The traveller with his knapsack who requires no more than a night's lodging at Paris may drive at once to one of the inns opposite the terminus of the Chemin de Fer de l'Est; whence he will have to start in the morning, if he travels by routes *a*, *c*, or *d*.

For the guidance of travellers, skeleton tours are here given, adapted to the convenience and taste of persons of different degrees of bodily strength, and using different modes of conveyance.

The two first tours are tolerably complete; other tours are framed so to show what may be done within a given time; but no sounder advice can be given to those who desire real and thorough enjoyment in travelling than carefully to abstain from doing all that can be done in the

time at their disposal. The grandest scenes of nature cannot be fully apprehended at a glance, and the impression which will be retained of sublime objects seen repeatedly, and under varying conditions of weather and light, will be far more prized than the crowd of imperfect images that can alone be carried away by a weary traveller in the course of an always hurried advance from one place to another.

Each traveller must, however, decide for himself the spots in which he may choose to halt, and the following outlines may conveniently be used for any portion of the alpine chain which it is desired to explore. The difficult passes are not included, as those who are able to cross them ought to be prepared by previous training and knowledge of the country.

**A.—TOUR FOR PERSONS WHO DO NOT RIDE:** about six weeks of easy travelling. Those portions which cannot be traversed in a carriage are marked as Char-road. A few easy excursions, which may be accomplished in a *chaise à porteur*, are given in italics.

Basle.  
Münsterthal.  
Bienne.  
Weissenstein.  
Lucerne.  
Weggis, by steamer.  
*Ascend Righi, and return.*  
Fluëlen, by steamer.  
Drive to Altorf, and return.  
Lucerne, by steamer or road.  
Thun, by Entlebuch.  
Interlaken, by steamer.  
Lauterbrunnen, and thence to Grindelwald, by char; returning to Interlaken.  
Brienz, by steamer.  
Reichenbach, by char.  
*Visit Giesbach, and return to Interlaken.*  
Thun.  
Bern.  
Freyburg.  
Lausanne.  
Geneva.  
Sallanches.  
Chamouni, by char.  
*Montanvert.*  
*Flegère.*  
Return to Geneva.  
Vevay, by steamer.

Chillon. (Hôtel Byron.)  
Bex. (Making an excursion by char to Sepey, in the Val des Ormonds, and returning to the high road at Aigle.)  
Sierre, by Martigny and Sion.  
Excursion by char to the Baths of Leuk, and return to high road.  
Brieg.  
Domo d' Ossola, by Simplon.  
Baveno.  
Borromean Islands.  
Luino, by boat.  
Lugano.  
Boat to Porlezza; thence by char to Menaggio, and by boat to Varenna or Bellagio.  
Chiavenna.  
Ander, by Splügen.  
Coire.  
Sargans, visiting on the way the Baths of Pfeffers.  
Wallenstadt.  
Wesen.  
Carriage to Rapperschwyl, and steamer on Lake of Zürich.  
Schaffhausen.  
Constance.  
Friedrichshafen, by steamer.

**B.—The foregoing Route may be varied by going at first from Basle to Zürich by Railway.**

Horgen, Zug, and Immensee.  
*Ascend the Righi and descend to Weggis.*  
Fluëlen, by steamer.  
Lucerne.  
Sarnen, &c., by the *Brunig*: carriage road to Reichenbach and Brienz  
(Direct to Lucerne)

Interlaken.  
Lauterbrunnen and Grindelwald, returning to Interlaken.  
(Thun, &c., as in preceding route.)

**C.—ROUTE BY BRIDLE-PATHS AND CARRIAGE-ROADS**, including most of the remarkable scenery of the Central Alps. Three months. It is assumed that wherever there is a good carriage-road it should be used. A few excursions on foot are given in italics.

Basle to Lucerne, by Railway; or by Schaffhausen and Zürich.  
 Ascend the Rigi from Arth or Immenensee.  
 Descend to Weggis.  
 Return to Lucerne.—Mount Pilate.  
 By Stanz to Engelberg.  
 By Surenen Pass to Altdorf.  
 By Andermatt to Hospital.  
 Pass of the Furca to the Grimsel.  
 Excursion to the Lower Glacier of the Aar.  
 Baths of Reichenbach.  
 Pass of the Scheideck.  
 Faulhorn.  
 Grindelwald.  
 Excursion to the Lower Glacier of Grindelwald.  
 Wengern Alp to Lauterbrunnen.  
 Mürren and Fall of Schmadribach.  
 Interlaken.  
 Excursion to the Giesbach, and back.  
 —Wimmis and ascent of Niesen.  
 Thun.  
 Saanen, by the Simmenthal.  
 Vevey, by the Dent de Jaman.  
 Chillon, &c.  
 Lausanne.  
 Geneva.  
 Excursion to the Salève.  
 Sallenches.  
 Chamouni.  
 Montanvert.  
*Breven.*  
 Martigny.  
 Orsières.  
 Cormayeur, by Col de Ferret.  
*Ascent of the Cramont.*  
 Aosta.  
 Excursion to the Hospice of the St. Bernard, and return.  
 Châtillon.  
 St. Jean de Gressonay, by Brusson.  
 Mollia, by Riva and the Col di Val Dobbia.  
 Varallo.  
 Orta.  
 Excursion to the Motterone.  
 Vanzone in the Val Anzasca, by Vogogna.  
 Macugnaga.

*\* Matmark or Saas, by the Monte Moro.*  
 Sion.  
 Evolena.  
 St. Luc, in Einfisch Thal.  
 Gruben, in Turtman Thal.  
 St. Niklaus.  
 Zermatt.  
 Riffelberg and Gorner Grat.  
*Ascent to Schwarze See and Hörnli.*  
 Visp, in the valley of the Rhone.  
 Bel Alp.  
*Æggischhorn Hotel.*  
*Ascend the Aeggischhorn.*  
 Brieg.  
 Domo d'Ossola, by Simplon.  
 Baveno.  
 Borromean Isles.  
 Luino.  
 Lugano.  
 Excursion to Monte Salvatore.  
 By Porlezza and Menaggio to Bellagio, on the Lake of Como.  
 Varenna.  
 Lecco, by the Val Sassina.  
 Como, by Erba.  
 Colico, by steamer.  
 Chiavenna.  
 Andeer, by Splügen.  
 Coire, by Via Mala.  
 Ragatz and Pfeffers.  
 Wesen, by Wallenstadt.  
 Stachelberg.  
 Altdorf, by Klausen Pass.  
 Schwytz.  
 Glarus, by Muotta Thal.  
 St. Gall.  
 Rorschach.  
 Friedrichshafen.

*\* Those who fear to undertake the Pass of the Moro may vary the route by returning from Macugnaga to Vogogna, proceeding thence by steamer on the Lago Maggiore to Locarno or Magadino, and thence by Bellinzona and Airolo over the Nufenen Pass to Obergesteln in the Upper Valais. From Obergesteln to the Æggischhorn, thence to Zermatt, returning to Visp and Brieg, and thence by the Simplon to Domo d'Ossola. The above route would be rejoined at Baveno.*

## D.—TOUR OF 14 OR 16 DAYS, hard travelling and fine weather.

Days.		Days.	
1	Schaffhausen.	7	By Lauterbrunnen and Interlaken to Frütigen.
	Rhine Fall.	8	By Gemmi to Leukerbad.
	Zürich. Or	9	Martigny and Col de Balme.
	Friedrichshafen.	10	
1	Romanshorn.	11	Chamouni.
	Zug. Or	12	
	Basle.	13	Geneva.
	Lucerne.	14	Tour of the Lake to Lausanne.
2	Rigi.	15	Bern.
3	Altorf.	16	Basle.
	Andermatt.	3, 4, and 5 may be shortened to one day by crossing the Brünig to Meyringen.	
4	Grimsel.		
5	Reichenbach and Rosenlauri.		
6	By Grindelwald to Wengern Alp.		

E.—TOUR FOR MODERATE PEDESTRIANS, keeping to the higher parts of the Swiss and Savoy Alps. It is assumed that some days of rest should be allowed to intervene, and that the passes or ascents marked in italics should not be attempted except in settled fine weather, and with experienced guides.

Days.		Days.	
1	Friedrichshafen by steamer to Rorschach; thence by rail to Ragatz; visit Pfäfers; sleep at Coire.	21	Baths of Leuk, by Gemmi Pass.
2	Diligence to Lenz, walk over the Albula Pass to Ponte; sleep at Samaden.	22	<i>Ascend the Torrenthorn.</i>
3	Visit Rosegg or Mortiratsch Glacier; sleep at Pontresina.	23	By Viesch, or by the Lötschsattel, to Hotel on the Äggischhorn.
4	<i>Ascend the Piz Languard.</i>	24	Äggischhorn, Aletsch Glacier,
5	To Casaccia, by Maloya Pass.	25	&c.
6	Ardeer, by Forcella Pass and Avers Thal.	26	To Saas, by Viesch and Visp.
7	Via Mala to Reichenau or Flims.	27	Excursion to Fee Alp; sleep at Matmark.
8	To Elm, by Segnes Pass.	28	Macugnaga by Monte Moro.
9	Baths of Stachelberg, by the Richetli Pass.	29	Excursion to Macugnaga Glacier.
10	Excursion to Sand Alp.	30	Sleep at Vanzone.
11	Klausen Pass to Altorf.	31	Varallo, by Val Mastalone.
12	Surenen Pass to Engelberg.	32	Alagna.
13	<i>Ascend the Titlis</i> , and sleep at the Inn on the Engstlen Alp.	33	Exc. to Pile Alp and Val di Bours.
14	To Im Hof, and Grimsel Hospice.	34	Gressoney, by Col d'Ollen or Col di Val Dobbia.
15	Sidelhorn and Oberaar Glacier.	35	<i>Ascend the Grauhaupt.</i>
16	Glacier of the Rhone.	36	Breuil, <i>by the Cimes Blanches</i> , or in two days by Brussonne and Châtillon.
17	<i>Strahleck Pass</i> to Grindelwald.	37	To Riffelberg Hotel, <i>by the Théodule Pass.</i>
18	Inn on the Wengern Alp.	38	
19	By Lauterbrunnen to the chalet of the Steinberg Alp.	39	Excursions about Zermatt.
20	To Kandersteg, <i>by the Tschingel Glacier and Gasteren Thal.</i>	40	
		41	Sleep at St. Nicolas.
		42	By <i>Turtmanthal</i> and <i>Meiden Pass</i> to Luc.
		43	Arpitetta Alp and Zinal.
		44	Evolena, by Torrent Pass.

Days.

45 *Col de Collon to Prerayen.*46 *Valpellina to Aosta.*47 *Cormayeur.*48 *Ascend the Cramont.*49 *To Chamouni, by Col de Bon-*50 *homme, &c.*

Days.

51 *Breven.*52 *Jardin.*

From 10 to 14 days additional  
should be allowed for rest and de-  
tention by bad weather.

## § 3. MONEY.

The coinage of Switzerland, by a decree of the Diet of 1850, has been reduced to conformity with that of France. The current money is francs and centimes, and accounts are now kept in these, the old Swiss batz being no longer a legal tender. This new and uniform coinage for the whole of Switzerland is distinguished by the word *HELVETIA* on the obverse, and is amongst the best in Europe.

The silver coins consist of pieces of 5 francs, 2 francs, 1 franc, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  franc (50 centimes). The small coins consist of pieces of 5, 10, and 20 centimes, struck in base metal, and easier to carry than French or English copper. Centimes are sometimes called rappen. The old batz was worth 15 centimes. The old or Swiss franc was a French franc and a half.

Previously to this salutary change there was hardly a country in Europe which had so complicated a currency as Switzerland. Almost every canton had a coinage of its own, and those coins that were current in one canton would not pass in the next; and as a change is contemplated in England, it may be interesting to know that, within six months after the new system was introduced, all trace of the old denominations was gone, except that the expression "franc de France," instead of "franc," was common. In remote districts the children begging screamed for centimes as if they had never heard of any other coin.

French Napoleons and francs, current all over Switzerland, are the best money the traveller can take with him; but English sovereigns and bank-notes are usually taken at inns throughout Switzerland and on the Italian lakes, at a value of 25 francs.

A very safe method of taking money is by circular notes issued by Coutts & Co., Herries & Co., the London and Westminster Bank, and other banks, payable at all the large towns in Europe. They may be procured for any sum from 10*l.* upwards.

The coinage of Piedmont and Lombardy is the same as that of France; but the old coinage of Piedmont, and Austrian zwanzigers, are still in circulation in the remoter districts.

## § 4. MEASURES.—DISTANCES.—ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

In 1848 by the New Federal Constitution it was decreed that the *Swiss foot* should consist of 30 centimètres, or  $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of a French mètre:—that 16,000 of these feet, or 4800 mètres, should go to a *Swiss league* = 2 Eng. miles, 7 furlongs, 190 yards = 2.983 Eng. miles:—23 $\frac{1}{4}$  Swiss leagues to a degree. A Swiss post is 3 Swiss leagues = 9 Eng. miles, nearly.

1 Swiss pied = 10 pouces = 100 lignes = 1000 traits.

Upon this authentic basis the measurement of distances on the roads of Switzerland has been commenced, and league-posts have been partially erected.

On most maps the heights above the sea-level are indicated in *Pieds de Paris*, or Old French feet.

1 mètre . . .	=	3·281 Eng. feet	=	3 feet 3 inches, nearly.
1 kilomètre . .	=	0·621 Eng. mile	=	3-5ths or 5-8ths of a mile, nearly.
1 Old French foot	=	1·066 Eng. foot	=	1 foot 1 inch, nearly.
1 French league	=	2·485 Eng. miles	=	2½ miles, nearly.
1 Swiss league } or Stunde . . }	=	2·983 Eng. miles	=	3 miles, nearly.
1 Swiss Post .	=	3·00 Swiss stunde	=	9 miles, nearly.
1 Swiss arpent .	=	0·89 Eng. acres	=	9-10ths of an acre, nearly.
1 Swiss pound .	=	1·102 lb. avoird.	=	½ Fr. kilog. = 1 lb. 1 oz., nearly.
1 Piedmont mile	=	1·503 Eng. mile	=	1½ mile and 57 yards.
1 German mile .	=	4·602 Eng. miles	=	4½ miles, nearly.

Tables of Measures.

Mètres to English Feet.			French Feet to English Feet.		
Mètres.	English Feet.		French Feet.	English Feet.	
	Accurate.	Approx.		Accurate.	Approx.
1	3·2809	3½	1	1·0658	1
2	6·5618	6½	2	2·1315	2
3	9·8427	9¾	3	3·1973	3
4	13·1236	13	4	4·2631	4½
5	16·4045	16½	5	5·3288	5½
6	19·6854	19½	6	6·3946	6½
7	22·9663	23	7	7·4604	7½
8	26·2472	26½	8	8·5261	8½
9	29·5281	29½	9	9·5919	9½

An approximate way of reducing French ft. to English ft. is to add ⅓th.

Kilomètres* to English Miles.				Centimètres to Inches.		
Kilomètre.	English Miles.	Kilomètre.	English Miles.	Centi-mètres.	Inches.	
	Approx.		Approx.		Accurate.	Approx.
1	½	8	5	1	·394	3¾
2	1½	9	5½	2	·788	¾
3	1¾	10	6	3	1·181	1
4	2½	20	12½	4	1·575	1½
5	3	30	18½	5	1·969	2
6	3½	40	24¾	6	2·362	2½
7	4½	50	31	7	2·756	2¾
				8	3·150	3
				9	3·543	3½

Leagues to Miles.			Square Measure.		
League.	English Miles.			Acres.	
	Accurate.	Approx.		Accurate.	Approx.
1 French league	2·485	2½	1 Swiss arpent	0·89	¾
1 Swiss league	2·983	3	1 hectare	·27456	¼
1 Swiss stunde	3·28	3½			
1 Swiss post	3 Swiss leagues	9			

\* 1 kilomètre = 4 furlongs 213 yards 1 foot 11 inches.

Temperature.			Temperature.		
Fahr.	Cent.	Reaumur.	Fahr.	Cent.	Reaumur.
°	°	°	°	°	°
212	100	80	80	26·7	21·3
200	93·3	74·7	70	21·1	16·9
150	65·6	52·4	60	15·6	12·4
140	60·0	48·0	50	10·0	8·0
130	54·4	43·6	40	4·4	3·6
120	48·9	39·1	30	— 1·1	— 6·9
110	43·3	34·7	20	— 6·7	— 5·3
100	37·8	30·2	10	— 12·2	— 9·8
90	32·2	25·8	0	— 17·8	— 14·2

The distances in this work have been reduced to English miles, which are always to be understood wherever the word *mile* alone is used.

To calculate the distance along the mountain-paths is almost hopeless. In this work, therefore, the distances along the mountain-paths have been reckoned as the natives reckon them, in *hours*, meaning thereby the distance which a mule with an ordinary load usually travels in an hour; and this is to be understood whenever the word *hour* alone is used.

The hour of course varies according to the nature of the ground. In very steep ascents it does not exceed 2 miles, in lesser acclivities 2½ miles; but on the mountains it is *never more* than 2½ miles. It has been ascertained by an experienced Alpine traveller that to clear 2 miles an hour up a steep mountain requires *very* good walking. An active walker will gain 5 or 10 minutes an hour on mules during an ascent, and still more on the descent; but persons not accustomed to exertion, or unused to mountain work, will find difficulty in keeping up with the mules when the ascent is steep. The mules are nearly as long on the descent as on the ascent; and therefore no difference is made in the ordinary reckoning of distances whether the path be up or down hill. It may be noted once for all, that, when nothing to the contrary is stated in the text, the time given in the following pages for going from one place to another by a mountain path may be reduced by one-fifth in the case of active pedestrians who are able to maintain their pace throughout the entire distance.

The sudden and almost simultaneous establishment of the *electric telegraph* along all the great high roads of the country was very remarkable. There is now scarcely a second-rate town or village that is not thus connected; and from any of them a message not exceeding 20 words can be sent for 1 fr., 21 to 50 for 2 frs., 51 to 100 for 3 frs., to any part of Switzerland. Luxurious or anxious travellers can thus, before starting in the morning, secure quarters for the night, or even order their dinner beforehand. The mode of arranging the wire is excessively primitive and economical, but seems to be effectual. It is stated that the insulation of the wires is not affected by their being covered with snow, and in many instances they are in contact with the foliage of trees.—It is singular and striking to see the telegraphic wires stretched from rock to rock along the shores of the lake of Lucerne, and surmounting the steep ascent and gloomy solitudes of



the Gries and other Alpine Passes. The central office of the Telegraph is at Zofingen (Rte. 4.)

*Postal Regulations*:—A uniform postage of 10 c. for letters below 10 grammes, if not prepaid 15 cents. For distances within 2 leagues 5 c. For letters and parcels not exceeding 250 gr. ( $\frac{1}{4}$  lb.) 20 c.

## § 5. MODES OF TRAVELLING IN SWITZERLAND.—POSTING.

The means of travelling in Switzerland have been greatly improved and increased within the last 30 years. The high roads are excellent, and those over the Alps are marvels of engineering skill. Where railways are not made, diligences run; and since 1823, when the first experiment with steam was made on the Lake of Geneva, every one of the large lakes is navigated by steamboats.

The Federal Government adopted in 1852 a general and uniform system of Posting (Extrapost), which has been introduced into all parts of the country, and all the great roads are now supplied with post-horses, except where the railways have been completed. There is still however difficulty in posting into Italy, except over the St. Gotthard; and in Savoy. Full information respecting the posting system may be obtained from the Official Swiss Post Book (*Tarif Suisse de la Poste aux Chevaux*), or the smaller *Extra Post Tarif*, which every traveller ought to procure on entering Switzerland.

*Horses* are charged 4 fr. each per post of 9 miles. *Postboy's* pay, according to tariff, is 1 fr. 50 c. for 1 or 2 horses; 2 fr. for 3 horses; 2 fr. 50 c. for 4 horses per post; but if he behaves well it is usual to give him 4 fr. or the price of a horse: price for *Carriage*, when furnished, 2 fr. per post.

The horses and harness are generally good; the postboys tolerably skilful, but they get over the ground very slowly. The *regulation pace* is a post in 1 hour 30 min., or 6 miles an hour, and is not often exceeded. Upon certain stages up hill the tariff compels you to take an extra horse, or leader (*renfort*), or to pay for it if not taken, sometimes with very little apparent reason. There is very little trouble in posting; the prices are fixed, and the postboy's pay is included.

Since the extension of railways, it has become very unusual to bring a carriage from England, and such a thing as a regular travelling-carriage is seldom seen in Switzerland. Those who wish to be luxurious, and do not mind the expense and in many instances the inconvenience of having a carriage attached to them, may hire a carriage for the journey at Geneva, Zurich, Lucerne, or occasionally at other towns in Switzerland.

In hiring a Swiss carriage for the journey let the traveller ascertain, before he concludes the bargain, under what class the vehicle would be ranged by the posting laws, and what number of horses will be required to draw it.

It is a great convenience in Switzerland for a solitary traveller that he may post in a car with *one horse*, the charges being per post—for 1 horse, 4 fr.; car, 2 fr.; postboy, 1 fr. 50 c.; but an extra trinkgeld is expected.

*Tolls* for the roads and bridges are abolished throughout Switzerland, and the owners indemnified.

## TARIF FOR POSTING.

[Dis- tances in Posts of 9 m.	CHARGE FOR HORSES.											
	1 Horse.		2 Horses.		3 Horses.		4 Horses.		5 Horses.		6 Horses.	
	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.
4	2	—	4	—	6	—	8	—	10	—	12	—
5	2	50	5	—	7	50	10	—	12	50	15	—
6	3	—	6	—	9	—	12	—	15	—	18	—
7	3	50	7	—	10	50	14	—	17	50	21	—
8	4	—	8	—	12	—	16	—	20	—	24	—
9	4	50	9	—	13	50	18	—	22	50	27	—
10	5	—	10	—	15	—	20	—	25	—	30	—
11	5	50	11	—	16	50	22	—	27	50	33	—
12	6	—	12	—	18	—	24	—	30	—	36	—
13	6	50	13	—	19	50	26	—	32	50	39	—
14	7	—	14	—	21	—	28	—	35	—	42	—
15	7	50	15	—	22	50	30	—	37	50	45	—
16	8	—	16	—	24	—	32	—	40	—	48	—
17	8	50	17	—	25	50	34	—	42	50	51	—
18	9	—	18	—	27	—	36	—	45	—	54	—
19	9	50	19	—	28	50	38	—	47	50	57	—
20	10	—	20	—	30	—	40	—	50	—	60	—
21	10	50	21	—	31	50	42	—	52	50	63	—
22	11	—	22	—	33	—	44	—	55	—	66	—
23	11	50	23	—	34	50	46	—	57	50	69	—
24	12	—	24	—	36	—	48	—	60	—	72	—

## § 6. DILIGENCES—LUGGAGE.

Well-appointed *Diligences*, though not very fast, running at convenient hours and very moderate fares, traverse almost every road in Switzerland daily where railways have not been laid down, and connect the chief rly. stats. with the places in their vicinity. The result is, that a great number of persons travel by them in preference to the voiturier's carriage, whose prices are also kept down by the competition of the diligences. The serious objection is, that, except from the coupé, very little of the beauty of the country is seen by those who travel by them.

They belong to the Federal Government, are managed by persons officially appointed, and are attached to the post-office, as in Germany, conformably with an enactment of the new Swiss Constitution of 1848. A list of diligences, &c. (*Kursanzeiger*, *Indicateur des Services Suisses*), is to be bought at the offices for a few sous. The places are numbered, and all baggage exceeding a certain fixed weight is charged extra, and often greatly increases the expense of this mode of conveyance, which is one reason among many why travellers should reduce their baggage to the smallest possible compass. The public conveyances are now quite as well organised as in Germany.

## TARIF FOR POSTING.

POSTBOY'S DRINKMONEY.						CHARGE FOR POST CARRIAGES.					
For a Carriage with 1 horse or 2 horses.		For a Carriage with 3 horses.		For a Carriage with 4 or more horses.		For a Carriage with 1 horse or 2 horses.		For a Carriage with 3 horses.		For a Carriage with 4 horses or 6 horses.	
Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.	Fr.	Ct.
—	75	1	—	1	25	1	—	1	50	2	—
—	95	1	25	1	55	1	30	1	90	2	50
1	15	1	50	1	85	1	50	2	30	3	—
1	35	1	75	2	20	1	80	2	70	3	50
1	50	2	—	2	50	2	—	3	—	4	—
1	70	2	25	2	80	2	30	2	40	4	50
1	90	2	50	3	15	2	50	3	80	5	—
2	05	2	75	3	45	2	80	4	20	5	50
2	25	3	—	3	75	3	—	4	50	6	—
2	45	3	25	4	05	3	30	4	90	6	50
2	65	3	50	4	35	3	50	5	20	7	—
2	85	3	75	4	70	3	80	5	70	7	50
3	—	4	—	5	—	4	—	6	—	8	—
3	20	4	25	5	30	4	30	6	40	8	50
3	40	4	50	5	60	4	50	6	80	9	—
3	55	4	75	5	95	4	80	7	20	9	50
3	75	5	—	6	25	5	—	7	50	10	—
3	90	5	25	6	55	5	30	7	90	10	50
4	15	5	50	6	85	5	50	8	30	11	—
4	35	5	75	7	20	5	80	8	70	11	50
4	50	6	—	7	50	6	—	9	—	12	—

The conductors, especially with a small additional fee, are generally civil; the clerks, &c., at the diligence offices are occasionally insolent and disobliging. The diligences, as in France, are horsed with the post-horses, and go from the same offices, so that there is no remedy in the case of annoyance or incivility except to take a voiturier.

There is a very convenient plan adopted as to places. The diligence offices will book any number of passengers up to a certain hour. When the time for starting arrives, all the luggage and as many passengers as the vehicle will hold are put into the diligence, which is far superior to the French diligence, and the rest of the passengers are sent by other carriages, called "supplements," or "beiwagen," of which there are often 3 or 4. If there is a party of 4 or 5, they can generally get a supplement to themselves, and travel very comfortably, except that the supplement is usually changed at every stage. Unless at the place from which the diligence starts, it is useless to take places for the coupé, for at the intermediate stations the coupé is often found full, and the traveller proceeds in a supplement. The pace along level ground never exceeds 6 miles an hour; at the smallest symptom of a hill this falls to a walk: down hill they occasionally go rather faster; and to those who have not become

hardened by use it is rather a nervous thing to see the heavy diligence turn round the corners of the zigzags in the face of precipices, with the reins of the 5 horses flying loose, and the horses apparently under no control. The horses however know the road, and, except in snow, an accident is seldom heard of.

The conductor's fee and the postilion's trinkgeld are included in the fare.

Travellers in Switzerland will frequently be glad to avail themselves of the public conveyances to forward their *luggage* from one place to another, while they are making pedestrian excursions among the mountains. In such cases, they have only to book their packages at the coach-office, after carefully addressing them, and, in some cases, entering a specification of their value in a printed form. They will then receive a receipt, and the article will be forwarded and taken care of until claimed.

In making application for packages so consigned, as well as for letters at the post-office, the Englishman should present his name printed or very legibly written, as our pronunciation is frequently unintelligible to foreigners, and without this precaution the applicant may be told that his luggage has not arrived, when in reality it is all the while lying in the *depôt*. The traveller may also request to look over the packages in search of his own.

Unhappily complaints are numerous of luggage being opened *in transitu* or in *depôt*, and of articles being purloined from it.

Many complaints are made as to the carelessness of the officials in Swiss Post-offices, even in the large towns, and many persons find it expedient to have their letters addressed to the care of a banker or a well-known hotel-keeper.

## § 7. VOITURIER OR LOHNKUTSCHER—CHARS-À-BANC.

The excellently organised systems of posting and public conveyances introduced since 1849, which place Switzerland on a par with any country of the continent—render travellers in a great degree independent of the *voiturier*, or *lohnkutscher*, or *vetturino*—whom formerly they were obliged to engage as soon as they crossed the Swiss frontier.

The Railway termini are the head-quarters of the *voituriers*; at all of them there are many persons who keep job-horses for hire, and will either conduct the traveller themselves, or send coachmen in their employ. *Return* horses and carriages are sometimes to be met with, and the traveller may save some expense by availing himself of them.

Before making an engagement, it is prudent to consult the landlord of the inn, or some other respectable inhabitant, to recommend a person of approved character to be employed. As there are many very roguish *voituriers*, ready to take advantage of the traveller on all occasions, such a recommendation will be a guarantee, to a certain extent, for good behaviour. The landlord should be referred to apart, not in presence of the coachman, nor, indeed, with his cognizance. Besides ascertaining that

the voiturier is a respectable man, that his horses are good, and his carriage (when a carriage is also required) is clean and stout, it is desirable in many cases that he should speak French as well as German, and, in all, that he be acquainted with the roads to be traversed. If the carriage is hired for a complete tour, the engagement should, in the first instance, not be made for any specific time, at least not for a long period, until man and horses have been tried and have given satisfaction. It is better to take him on from day to day, holding out the prospect of his being continued if he behaves well. It should be clearly understood whether the well-mannered individual who is the proprietor of the carriage and makes the bargain with you, will or will not be the driver, otherwise he may hand you over to the charge of a subordinate.

The usual charge per diem is 15 francs, and 1 franc trinkgeld or bonnemain, for a one-horse vehicle; 25 francs, and 2 francs trinkgeld, for a pair-horse vehicle; and so on. In the height of the season it is from 3 to 5 francs a-day more, and over the great passes it is higher still.

If the carriage is discharged at a distance from home, back-fare will be demanded.

For this consideration the coachman keeps himself and his horses, supplying fresh ones if his own fall ill or lame; he ought also to pay all tolls, and the charge for leaders (vorspann) to drag the carriage up steep ascents. These two last conditions, however, are not always acceded to, and these charges often fall upon the master.

It is advisable, before setting out on a long tour, to have an agreement in writing drawn up. (See Forms of Contract in Murray's 'Handbook of Travel Talk'.)

It is, however, now become unusual to engage a voiturier except for a particular journey of two or three days. Without troubling the traveller with the complications of back-fares, &c., the rate may be reckoned in the season for a good carriage and pair at about 40 fr. a-day over the more level parts, and 60 fr. a-day over the great passes, all charges, back-fare, vorspann, bonnemain, &c., included. A return voiturier will take one-half or two-thirds of these prices.

The usual rate of travelling is from 10 to 15 leagues, 32 to 46 miles a-day, proceeding at the rate of about 5 miles an hour. Whilst on the road the voiturier goes as fast as the diligence or post-horses, but it is necessary to halt in the middle of the day, about two hours, to rest the horses; and the distances which one pair of horses will achieve by means of walking up the smallest ascents, and using the break skilfully on all descents, are incredible.

Throughout Switzerland, *one-horse calèches*, or chaises, *einspänner*, are becoming common, instead of chars-à-banc, and may be hired at every inn. They hold comfortably 2 or 3 persons, and are furnished with a hood affording shelter from rain, while not shutting out the view. In front there is a board for the driver. They go at a rate of 5 or 6 m. an hour, except on very billy roads. The fare is about 1 franc an English mile; and the driver receives 1 fr. trinkgeld for 8 or 10 miles. The luggage may be attached behind on springs.

The char-à-banc, the national carriage of French Switzerland, is nearly obsolete. It may be described as the body of a gig, or a bench, as its name implies, placed sideways upon four wheels, surrounded by leather

curtains made to draw, whence it has been compared to a four-post bedstead on wheels. It is a very strong and light vehicle, capable of carrying two persons, or three at a pinch, and will go on roads where no other species of carriage could venture. It is convenient, from being so low that one can jump in or alight without stopping the horse, while it is going on ; but it is very jolting.

## § 8. RAILWAYS.

Down to the year 1855 the only railway in Switzerland was a short line from Zürich to Baden, a village in the neighbourhood. The reason of this was not, as generally supposed, the extreme natural difficulties of the country, Switzerland being in fact, with the exception of the passes through the central mountains of the Alps and the Jura, not a very difficult country. The lowlands, or parts round Berne, Aarau, Neuchâtel, Lausanne, &c., are not worse than many parts of the south of England ; and by means of the valleys of the Rhine and the Rhone, railways can penetrate deep into the Alps with remarkable ease. The real difficulty consisted in the extraordinary and incredible jealousies between not only the different cantons, but the different communes or parishes, and the legal difficulties in obtaining the land. A change of government, however, having taken place in 1848, a system of railways was planned by the Department of Public Works, and has been partially carried into execution, many of the lines being executed by English engineers and with English capital.

1. *The Central Swiss Railway*, from Basle through the Unter-Haenstein to Olten, and thence to Berne and Thun, with branches to Soleure and Bienne, Lucerne and Aarau, also from Bienne direct to Berne.

2. *The North-Eastern Railway*, from Romanshorn on the lake of Constance to Zürich, and thence to Aarau on the Central Railway, open.

3. From Basle, along the N. bank, or Baden side of the Rhine, to Waldshut and Schaffhausen ; continued to Constance—the *Rheinfall Railway*, from Schaffhausen to Winterthur and Zürich,

4. *The United Swiss*, from Coire (with hopes of a tunnel through the Alps at some future time) to Rorschach on the lake of Constance, open ; with branches : *a.*—from Sargans, along the side of the lake of Wallenstadt, to Rapperschwyl and Zürich ; *b.*—from Rorschach, by St. Gall and Winterthur, to Zürich ; and *c.*—from Wesen to Glarus.

5. *The Western Railway*, from Bienne, by Neuchâtel and Yverdun, to Morges and Lausanne, and thence to Geneva, open. From Lausanne to Villeneuve, on the lake of Geneva, up the valley of the Rhone towards the Simplon, is open to Sion and Sierre.

6. From Pontarlier, on the French frontier, to Neuchâtel (shortest way from Paris to Switzerland), connecting branches from Neuchâtel to Chaux de Fonds and Locle.

7. *The Ligne d'Italie* to connect Geneva with the Simplon Pass by the S. side of the lake of Geneva. The section from Bouveret, on the lake, by St. Maurice, to Sion in the Valais, is alone open at present.

8. Railway from Berne to Fribourg and Lausanne.

9. Railways are also open from Lyons and Macon to Geneva.

The weight allowed is only 20lbs., all above this is charged for.

*Excursion Tickets*, and return-tickets, valid for 2 or 3 days, may be procured in summer on many of the lines.

The *luggage arrangements* on the Swiss railways are if possible more inconvenient than on the French or German railways; and there is a system of extortion for conveyance to and from the stations which the traveller should be on his guard against.

The Swiss railway carriages are generally on the American model, with cross seats and a passage down the middle.

### § 9. GUIDES—PORTERS.

*Guides by profession* abound in Switzerland; many of them have acquired a wide-spread and well-earned reputation. Those who have earned a character for especial skill and intrepidity in difficult and dangerous expeditions in the higher Alps are usually engaged during the entire season by members of the Alpine Club or other adventurous travellers. In general, the practice of taking the same guide for an entire tour is becoming more and more common amongst Alpine travellers, and in this way many have acquired local knowledge of a considerable portion of the Alpine chain. Thus guides may be considered in two capacities, *General* and *Local*.

*General Guides* are to be found at Chamouni, Grindelwald, Thun, Interlaken, Meyringen, and also at Zürich, Lucerne, Berne, Zerman, and Pontresina, in the Engadine, &c.; and it is by no means a bad plan for an inexperienced traveller or party to engage an approved guide for the entire tour of Switzerland, including Bernese Alps, Zermatt, and Chamouni. Men may be found who, having frequently made the tour, have a good general knowledge of the whole country. A trustworthy guide is worth securing, even though he should not have sufficient knowledge to act over mountain-passes beyond his own peculiar district. He makes himself useful, not only in pointing out the way, but in acting as interpreter to those unacquainted with the language of the country, and also in relieving the traveller of the weight of his knapsack or travelling-bag, and in fact acts as *courier*, but at a cheaper rate, and generally with more honesty. Such a guide should not, as a general rule, be engaged without the recommendation of an innkeeper or other respectable person, and it should be distinctly understood that the traveller is to be free to discharge him whenever he pleases, paying his expenses home, or a day's pay for each day's journey to be made on foot.

Along with the guide, horses or mules may be taken for a *Bridle Tour*, and by arranging the plan in a circle much expense of *back fares* of men and beasts is saved.

*Local Guides* are, as a general rule, indispensable in ascending very lofty mountains, in exploring glaciers, and in crossing the minor passes of the Alps, not traversed by highroads, but by mere bridle or foot paths, rarely used, and in many places not distinctly marked, or



confounded with innumerable tracks of cattle. Nevertheless, travellers having a good knowledge of German, in addition to some experience of mountain journeys, and provided with a good map, may cross some of these passes alone with impunity; but there are others, such as the Bonhomme, Mont Cervin, Monte Moro, &c., which no one would be justified in attempting without a guide. When snow is threatening to fall, or after a snow-storm has covered the path and obliterated the footsteps of preceding travellers, a guide may be required in situations where, under ordinary circumstances, his presence might be dispensed with. Of course, in clear weather, and over passes not crossing snow or glaciers, a guide is no more needed than he would be in any strange country, except that on the high mountains there is no one of whom to inquire the way, and that a mistake of the path might involve the disagreeable necessity of sleeping out on the mountain. A traveller of some experience is of opinion that upon an average, without a guide, 1 mile in 10 will be lost in mistakes of the way, even by practised mountaineers. No one, however, without thorough knowledge and experience of the high Alps, should be foolish enough to trust himself over ice or snow without a guide. It is entirely a new world; and when the slightest check occurs, an inexperienced person is utterly at a loss. He does not know what ice will bear him, where the crevasses run, where avalanches fall, or where the safe track is likely to be; and with the best ordinary judgment, is quite as likely to run into danger as to avoid it. One golden rule to those who take no guide is, always to leave two or three good hours of daylight as a margin beyond the utmost time which the route is calculated to occupy. Another excellent rule is, *never* take a short cut upon your own judgment. It is frequently wrong to cut off the most apparent zigzag; but the villagers will often, for a few sous, show wonderfully short cuts.

In the eastern parts of Switzerland, where there are *no* professional guides, the traveller is often obliged to place himself in the hands of some peasant or cowherd, whose sole knowledge of a pass lies, perhaps, in his having crossed it once or twice, perhaps, many years before. This demands additional caution.

The established rate of hire is 6 to 8 F. francs a-day, for 8 hours, and in the Oberland 1 fr. bonnemain; but, in addition to this, there will be a claim for 6 francs a day or less to return, if dismissed at a distance from home, unless the employer find him a fresh master to take back. For this sum the guide provides for himself, and is expected to discharge all the duties of a domestic towards his employer. A first-rate guide is usually paid 8 or 10 francs a-day, with additional sums of 20 francs for each of the higher passes or more difficult ascents.

The guides at Chamouni form a corporation, and are subject to a number of stringent rules as to their employment, of which travellers and the best guides complain much. A monopoly has also been established in the Oberland, and in some other parts of Switzerland. In the Lower Valais it is a punishable offence for any one, not a professed guide, to carry a traveller's luggage!!

For the most part, the guides may be said to be obliging, intelligent, and hard-working men. Few who have employed them cannot bear testimony to their coolness, intrepidity, and tact, in moments of danger—in the difficult pass, in the midst of the snow-storm, or among the gaping

clefts of the glaciers. It is in such situations that their knowledge of the mountains, their experience of the weather, their strong arm and steady foot, are fully appreciated. The traveller should always follow the guide in crossing glaciers, and, in going over tracts covered with snow, should allow him to choose what his experience teaches to be the safest path.

A little civility and familiarity on the part of the employer—the offer of a cigar from the traveller's own case, or a glass of brandy from his private flask—will rarely be thrown away; on the contrary, it is likely to produce assiduity and communicativeness on the part of the guide. Many of them are fine and athletic men, and to carry for 8 or 10 hours a-day, and for a distance of 25 or 30 m., a load of 30 or 40 lbs. weight is made light of by them.

Some travellers content themselves with a mere porter to carry their baggage for them. Such a man is paid less than the professional guides; 3 or 4 fr. a-day will suffice for him. Those who travel in chais or on horseback will find that the driver, or the man who accompanies the horse, will render unnecessary the employment of any other person in that capacity. At Chamouni, however, the guides must be hired distinct from the mules. When the travelling party includes ladies unaccustomed to mountain-work, a guide is required to attend on each, to lead down the horses where the path is steep, and to lend their arms to the fair travellers when the exigencies of the case require them to dismount and proceed on foot.

In making purchases, as in the choice of inns, travellers should be cautious of following blindly the advice of the guide, who too often regards the percentage offered or the quantity of liquor supplied to him more than the interest of his employer.

#### § 10. HORSES AND MULES.—CHAISES-À-PORTEURS.

Previous to 1800, or even later, until Napoleon commenced the magnificent carriage-roads over the Alps, which will assist in immortalising his name, the only mode of conveying either passengers or goods across them was on the back of men, or of horses or mules. Even now, upon all the minor passes, the entire traffic is carried on by the same means. In other instances, where the beauties of scenery attract an influx of strangers, mules are kept for their conveyance, even where they are not required for the transport of merchandise.

The customary hire of a horse or mule throughout Switzerland, generally fixed by a printed tariff, amounts to 10 fr. a-day, and 1 fr. or 2 fr. to the man who takes care of it; at Chamouni it is 6 fr., but there a guide must also be taken. Back-fare must be paid if the animals are dismissed at a distance from home, and at so late an hour of the day that they cannot return before night.

The ponies that are used in the Bernese Oberland, on the Rigi, and in other parts of Switzerland, are clever animals, that will carry you up and down ascents perfectly impracticable to horses unused to the mountains; but they are perhaps excelled by the mules of Chamouni and other parts of Savoy. Of these the sagacity, strength, and sureness of foot are really wonderful.

The paths which they ascend or descend with ease are steeper than any staircase, sometimes with ledges of rock, 2 or 3 ft. high, instead of steps. Sometimes they are covered with broken fragments, between which the beasts must pick their way, at the risk of breaking their legs; at others they traverse a narrow ledge of the mountain, with an abyss on one side and a wall of rock on the other. In such dangerous passes the caution of the animal is very remarkable; he needs no rein to guide him, but will pick his own way, and find out the best path far better than his rider can direct him; and, in such circumstances, it is safer to let the reins hang loose, and trust entirely to his sagacity, than to perplex him by checking him with the curb, at a moment when, by confusing the animal, there will be risk of his losing his footing, and perhaps tumbling headlong. The rider who mounts a mule or mountain-horse must give up his preconceived notions of riding, and let the reins hang absolutely loose, otherwise he is in danger. There are very few instances of accidents from the falling of the animals; the only instance within the writer's knowledge happened to a gentleman who was a great horseman, and no doubt attempted to interfere with his mule. Those who are incredulous on this point should recollect that the horses constantly traverse the same paths in perfect safety with heavy loads on their backs, and no man near enough to interfere with them. Descending the passes on horseback is very disagreeable, and sometimes dangerous, and the rider should always dismount when requested to do so by the guide. In fact, those who can walk at all should, if they have not too much luggage, only hire the horses to the head of the pass, as they will be of very little use on the descent. Each saddle has a flap or pillion attached, on which a knapsack or carpet-bag not weighing more than about 30 lbs. may be carried. A portmanteau requires an extra mule. Side-saddles are now to be found wherever there are inns and regular mules or horses.

A tariff of the prices to be paid for horses in most places is in the *Indicateur*, p. 108.

Those who are unable or too infirm to ride or walk may be carried over the mountains in a "chaise-à-porteur" (Germ. Tragsessel; It. Portantina), which is nothing more than an arm-chair carried upon poles by two bearers in the manner of a sedan. In the Bernese Oberland two bearers will frequently undertake to carry a lady of light weight for many successive days over the ordinary passes; but, as a general rule, two, but in some places four extra bearers must be taken to relieve by turns, and each man expects 6 fr. a-day, and 3 fr. for each day of return. This is said to be a very uncomfortable mode of locomotion.

## § 11. SWISS INNS.

Switzerland is well provided with excellent inns. The great annual influx of strangers into the country is of the same importance to Switzerland that some additional branch of industry or commerce would be, and renders the profession of host most lucrative. Many of the Swiss innkeepers are very wealthy; in a great part of the country they appear to be the only wealthy

inhabitants. It is not uncommon to find an individual in this capacity who is magistrate, and it has happened that they are persons of such influence in their canton or commune that it is difficult to obtain redress against them for an injury or act of insolence, owing either to the interest they possess with the courts, or to their being absolutely themselves the justices. As a general rule, however, they are very respectable men, and no difficulties with them arise.

The approach to one of the first-rate hotels in the large towns, in the height of summer, exhibits rather a characteristic spectacle. The street before it is usually filled with several rows of vehicles of all sorts, from the dirty and rickety calèche of the German voiturier, to the neat chariot of the English peer, and the less elegant, but equally imposing, equipage of the Russian prince. Before the doorway is invariably grouped a crowd of loitering guides, servants, and couriers, of all nations and languages, and two or three knots of postilions and coachmen on the look-out for employment.

Couriers, voituriers, guides, and boatmen are apt sometimes to sell their employers to the innkeepers for a gratuity, so that travellers should not always implicitly follow the recommendations of such persons regarding inns; and it is believed that the list of inns, drawn up with much care, and given in this book, has rendered the traveller of late years more independent of their recommendations. The innkeepers were formerly very much at the mercy of this class of persons, who invariably fare sumptuously and certainly not at their own expense; and it not unfrequently happens that the attendance which ought to be bestowed on the master is showered upon his menials. The inns recommended here are from the best information that the editor can procure, but it is obvious that the information must be, with very few exceptions, eight or nine months old at the latest, and that in many instances it must be much older, and in the interval the landlord may have been changed, or may have become more careful from adversity, or careless from prosperity, and the inn may be completely altered. In the following pages the inns which are believed by the editor to be best in any town are mentioned first.

It may be laid down as a general rule, that the wants, tastes, and habits of the English are more carefully and successfully studied in the Swiss inns than even in those of Germany. At most of the large inns, in addition to the 1 o'clock dinner, there is a *late table-d'hôte* dinner at 4 or 5 o'clock; and tea may always be had tolerably good; but, unexpectedly in this land of milk, cream is rarely to be had with it. Several wealthy innkeepers have even gone so far as to build *English chapels* for their guests, as an inducement to English travellers to pass the Sunday with them. Cleanliness is to be met with almost everywhere, until you reach the S. slopes of the Alps and the approach to Italy. In canton Bern, in particular, the inns, even in the small and remote villages, are patterns of neatness, such as even fastidious travellers may be contented with. Still in many instances, even in first-class inns, the houses are deficient in proper drainage and ventilation, and the passages and staircases are unwholesome and offensive from bad smells. Care should be taken to impress on the landlords how disgusting and intolerable is such a nuisance to English ideas.

The practice is now general of the waiter rushing into your room before

you and lighting the *wax* candles without consulting you. If a traveller proposes sitting up some hours, he may not object to this ; but it is very different when, at 10 or 11 o'clock, you retire to bed, *to sleep*, and the infliction of a charge for wax candles, under such circumstances, can be looked on only as an imposition.

The following *list of usual Charges* will serve to guide travellers, and may protect them from extortion and imposition on the part of those innkeepers or couriers who may be disposed to take advantage of them.

*List of Charges of the first-class Swiss Hotels.*

	Fr.	fr.	c.
Tea or coffee, morning or evening, with bread, butter, and honey (eggs and meat charged separately)	1	50	
Ditto in private, each person charged extra	0	50	
Déjeuner à la fourchette (table d'hôte)	2	50	
Table d'hôte at 1 (without vin ordinaire)	3	0	
Ditto ditto, at 5	4 or 5	0	
Dinner in private (commandé à l'avance dans la salle à manger)	5	0	
<i>Servants</i> , dinner or supper, 1 fr. 50 c. ; breakfast or tea, 1 fr.			
Bougie, 1 fr. ; Demi-bougie	0	50	
Lampe de nuit	0	50	
Bain de pied, chaud ou froid ( <i>unreasonable, but usual</i> )	0	50	
Servants (service de l'hôtel), par jour par personne	1	0	
From large families, who make some stay, so much is not expected.			

The charges for *Rooms* vary according to their situation on the lower floors, and the views they command ; but the best suite of apartments, in first-rate inns, ought not to exceed 4 to 6 fr. a-day for a sitting-room or salon, and 3 fr. for each bed. The *Salles-à-manger* in the larger Swiss inns are handsome, clean, and airy apartments. Smoking is not allowed in them, and in consequence of this, and of a higher charge being made for meals in private rooms, many more persons take breakfast, tea, and supper than in the German inns, and the society is more select than in France or Germany, and may be enjoyed in comfort, the guests being almost exclusively tourists.

A party of 3 or 4 persons staying a week or more, even in a first-rate hotel, should not pay more than 8 or 9 fr. each, board and lodging, including servants, per diem. At Interlaken the charge for good board and lodging is not more than 6 fr. a-day ; and at some of the baths near Bex not more than 4½ fr. a-day for those who remain some weeks. At some of the small inns in remote valleys the charges are absurdly low ; but occasionally the landlords in such places charge as high as in first-rate hotels in large towns. Such attempts at imposition may be best resisted by threatening to inform other travellers.

English travellers halting at an *Inn* about mid-day to rest their horses, if there be no table-d'hôte at 12 or 1, should order a déjeuner à la fourchette (gabel frühstück), for which they will be charged 1½ or 2 fr. per head. If they order *dinner*, they will be charged 3 or 4 fr. for the very same food. Similarly, when arriving at an inn in the evening, tea, with côtelettes de mouton, or bifteck aux pommes de terre, will replace dinner satisfactorily

and economically. One fr. a-day is usually given to the servants, and is almost always added in the bill. This includes all the servants except the porter, who expects something extra.

French is almost invariably spoken at the inns, even in the German cantons, except in remote parts, as in the side valleys of the Grisons. Nevertheless, the German language is a very valuable acquisition to the traveller. English is spoken in the large hotels.

Swiss inns have, in general, the reputation of being expensive, and the innkeepers of being extortionate; of late years, however, great improvement has taken place. A recent journey through the greater part of the country has scarcely afforded an instance of either; but, where such cases have occurred, notice has been taken of them in the following pages. At minor and remote inns, manœuvres are sometimes resorted to for the purpose of detaining the guests.

It is often supposed, and perhaps correctly, that two sets of charges are made—one for natives, or Germans, and another for the English; on the principle that the latter have both longer purses and more numerous wants, and are more difficult to serve.

The *average daily expense* of living at the best inns in Switzerland will vary between 8 Fr. fr. and 10 fr. a-day, excluding all charge for conveyances, horses, and guides. Those who consult economy will, instead of going to inferior inns in large towns, avoid them, and sleep in villages whenever it is practicable. The German students, who understand the art of travelling economically, always proceed in a party, and usually send on one of their number a-head, to their intended night-quarters, to make terms with the innkeeper, and do not spend more than 5 or 7 frs. a-day. There is this advantage in travelling with a party, that numbers are more welcomed at an inn and better attended to than a solitary individual; on the other hand, when inns are full, few stand a better chance than many; and travellers with ladies are allotted better rooms than single men. All arrangements for the hire of carriages, horses, or guides, should be concluded over-night: he that waits till the morning will generally find either the conveyances engaged by others, or the price demanded for them increased, and, at all events, his departure delayed.

Among the mountains, the traveller may obtain, in perfection, the small alpine *Trout*, which are of great excellence; sometimes, also, chamois venison, which, by the way, is far inferior to park venison; wild strawberries are very abundant, and, with a copious admixture of delicious cream,—the staple commodity of the Alps,—are by no means to be despised.

Those who enter a Swiss inn, tired, hot, and thirsty, after a long walk or dusty ride, may ask for a bottle of “limonade gazeuse,” under which name they will recognise a drink nearly resembling ginger-beer, but with more acidity, and, when good, very refreshing. It supplies here the place of hock and Seltzer-water on the Rhine.

Swiss wines are generally condemned. Tolerably good wine is made in the Cantons Neuchâtel, Vaud, and Valais; but is not often to be found at inns. French Beaujolais wine is usually the best liquor to be had in all but the best hotels. Some persons like a sweetish Piedmontese wine that tastes like perry (*vino d’Asti*), which is common in Swiss inns.



§ 12.—DIRECTIONS FOR TRAVELLERS, AND REQUISITES FOR A JOURNEY IN SWITZERLAND — MAPS — DANGERS OF ALPINE TRAVELLING — PRECAUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED.

The *best season* for travelling among the Alps is the months of July, August, and September, in which may, perhaps, be included the last half of June. The higher Alpine passes are scarcely clear of snow before the second week of June; and before the middle of October, snow almost invariably falls on the high Alps: and though the weather is often still serene, the nights draw in so fast as to curtail, inconveniently, the day's journey. During the long days of July and August one may get over a great deal of ground. In September the days are not too hot for hard walking, and there seems to be the best chance of fine weather. On an average there is one season in four fine, two tolerable, and one bad. Those who have not seen Switzerland in set fine weather do not know what Switzerland is.

The first expeditions up mountains produce intense thirst, and drinking water does not remedy it, for it is caused by a fever of the palate. Travellers should be cautioned against indulging in cold water or cold milk when heated; the guides and natives accustomed to mountain travelling never drink before resting; exercise afterwards will render the draught harmless.

It is tiresome and unprofitable in the extreme to walk along a high road over a flat and monotonous country, where there is a carriage-road and conveyances are to be had: here it is best to ride; the cost of a conveyance is counterbalanced by the economy of time.

After the middle of June, when the season for travelling in Switzerland begins, little danger is to be feared from *avalanches*, except immediately after snow-storms, which occur among the high Alps even in the height of summer.

In traversing *Swiss lakes*, implicit reliance should be placed on the advice of the boatmen, and no attempt should be made to induce them to launch their boats when they foresee danger. (See Rte. 18.)

In a few spots on the Italian side, and in some spots on the north side of the Alps, especially the valley of the Rhone, there is malaria in marshy places and in the districts about the embouchures of rivers where they empty themselves into lakes, and travellers should avoid sleeping in such districts.

For many years Keller's was the only map of Switzerland, and is still the clearest and most portable *road* map (Zürich edit. best; English and French copies inferior). Since the government surveys have been made, more accurate maps have been published. *Leuthold's* (Zürich), 10 fr., is very good indeed; it is clear, and its mountains are more accurate than in Keller. For those who are content with less complete and more portable maps there are Leuthold's at 7 fr. and 3 fr. *Ziegler* (St. Gall) has published very accurate but not clear maps, at 8 fr. and 2 fr. A traveller who is content to pore minutely over Ziegler's map will find it far

the fullest and most trustworthy. Geological maps by *Studer* and *Escher* at 22 fr. There are spurious and inferior editions of many of these maps published in France or Germany, against which the purchaser must be on his guard.

*The Government Map of Switzerland*—scale ~~now~~, or 2-3rds of an inch to the mile, published under the direction of General Dufour, and sold by all the principal booksellers, and analogous to the English Ordnance Maps, is by far the best. It is comprised in 25 sheets, each containing about 30 miles square, and costing from 4 to 7 fr. This map includes not only every road and every path of importance, but even every single house and barn. The execution of these maps is admirable: the mountains engraved are absolutely portraits. Travellers intending to diverge from the beaten track, with a view to explore any particular district, are advised to provide themselves with the sheet of the government map in which it is included, and to write for it by post to some good bookseller, such as Dalp, at Berne, if they have not got it. The map of Switzerland attached to this volume is divided into numbered squares, which severally correspond to the sheets of the Government map.

Studer and Escher's geological maps are elaborate works, the result of immense labour. Studer has also published an excellent map of the country round Monte Rosa (Wagner, Bern), smaller but more correct than Schlagentweit's. *Reilly's Map of Mont Blanc*, London, 1865, is far the best that has been produced.

See also Introd. to Savoy and Piedmont.

*Requisites for Travelling.*—The following hints are principally addressed to those who intend to make *pedestrian* journeys.

To travel *on foot* is the best mode of *seeing* Switzerland; and it saves a world of trouble to have no other baggage than a knapsack; one containing 2 flannel shirts, 6 collars, 6 pocket-handkerchiefs, 2 neckties, 1 night-gown, 4 pair socks, slippers, thin shoes for wear in the house or a short stroll when the others are wet through, alpaca coat, thin waistcoat and trowsers, light hair-brush, clothes-brush, simple dressing and writing materials, veil, spectacles for ice, woollen comforter, gloves, muffetees, with a thin paletot or fine light plaid, strapped on the outside, will not exceed 12 lbs. A waterproof is not of much use to a pedestrian, as it is too hot. A good umbrella is more useful, and will keep off the sun; when not in use it is stuck through the knapsack after the Swiss fashion.

The *boots* ought to be double-soled, provided with hob-nails, such as are worn in shooting in England, and without iron heels, which are dangerous, and liable to slip in walking over rocks; three rows of nails are better, and Swiss nails are better than English, which are often too hard and slippery: the weight of a shoe of this kind is counter-balanced by the effectual protection afforded to the feet against sharp rocks and loose stones, which cause contusions, and are a great source of fatigue and pain; they should be so large as not to pinch any part of the foot. The experienced pedestrian never commences a journey with new boots, but with a pair that have already conformed to the shape of the feet. If the boots come to grief, Swiss bootmakers are capable of satisfying an Englishman's wants. Thick knit worsted socks, double at the heels, or cotton stockings with worsted feet, ought invariably to be worn, and flannel shirts are incomparably the best for all exertion. It is advisable



to travel in tweed trowsers, not in linen, which afford no protection against rain or changes of temperature in mountain regions. The clothes, if woollen, can hardly be too thin or light. In the months when Englishmen travel it is seldom cold, and often extremely hot. No one who has not ascended a mountain or a pass in the sun can form an idea of the intense heat he will be subject to.

*Portmanteaus* are better in England than anywhere else, but should not be too large. A carpet-bag or knapsack should always be taken, as a portmanteau requires a luggage-mule or a porter, whilst a carpet-bag will go behind the saddle, and the portmanteau may be sent round by the high road.

*Knapsacks* are of two sorts: mackintosh with stiff sides, and intended to carry a complete equipment, in which case they should be tolerably large; and mackintosh or oilskin without a frame or stiffening, so as to pack in a portmanteau, but large enough to carry a supply of clothes for a week or two.

A *flask* is sometimes carried; but spirits during violent exertion, and especially at great heights, are to be avoided: wine diluted plentifully with water is usually preferred; but many experienced mountaineers find cold tea a better preservative from thirst. Many persons find relief from the intense thirst by keeping a pebble in the mouth. In ascending to great heights dried raisins or prunes are also found advantageous.

A *telescope* is not of much use, as the view is seldom minute. A “*duchesse*” opera glass is far better.

Lee, 440, West Strand, London, bookseller and stationer, furnishes many requisites for travellers, including a very portable writing-case. No pedestrian should travel without a pocket-compass, nor without a leather drinking-cup.

Cards or pieces of parchment, or, better still, adhesive labels, for writing directions for the baggage (the managers of public conveyances abroad often *insist* upon each package being addressed, before they will take charge of it); and one or two leather straps, to keep together books, coats, shawls, &c., or small parcels, will be found very useful.

The *alpenstock* is an almost indispensable companion upon mountain journeys, and may be procured everywhere in Switzerland for about a franc. It is a stout pole, 5½ or 6 ft. long, with an iron spike at one end. The pedestrian who knows how to use it appreciates its value as a staff and leaping-pole, but chiefly as a support in *descending* the mountains; it then becomes, as it were, a third leg. It enables one to transfer a part of the weight of the body from the legs to the arms, which is a great relief in descending long and steep hills. By the aid of it also travellers in the high Alps are enabled to slide down steep slopes of snow with great ease after some practice, checking the velocity of their course, when it becomes too great, by leaning back, and driving the point deeper. In crossing glaciers, it is indispensable, to feel the strength of the ice, and ascertain whether it be free from crevasses and able to bear the weight. The alpenstock is usually of fir, but the only *trustworthy* ones are of ash, and sufficiently strong to bear the weight of a man seated on the middle while the ends rest on 2 supports. The common alpenstocks are not to be trusted on high excursions; it is safer to order an ash pole as high as the traveller's chin, and about 4 inches in circumference, with a steel spike very solidly attached to the lower end. The chamois-horn often appended to the alpenstocks of

the shops is absurd and inconvenient, if not dangerous. (See below for *ice-axe*.)

*Dangers of Alpine travelling and precautions to be adopted.*—Within the last few years the desire to undertake difficult and adventurous expeditions in the high Alps has become common amongst our countrymen. By many hardy and dangerous exploits they have proved their aptness for this new description of sport, but several fatal accidents, and a still larger number of hairbreadth and unexpected escapes, have shown the necessity for imposing some prudential restraint, or at least some increased caution, upon inexperienced travellers who are liable to be led into danger by the spirit of imitation. Mountaineers who well understand their own pursuit, who have ascertained by continued practice the limits of their own strength and endurance, who know what the dangers of the high Alps are, and how these may best be avoided, do not require, and would not accept advice. Those who, with little or no knowledge and experience, wish to engage in a pursuit wherein they may at any moment risk their own lives or those of their companions, may benefit by the advice of their veteran predecessors, provided they will remember that no advice can dispense with the necessity for practical training, and some familiarity with the peculiar phenomena of the ice-region of the high Alps. The following paragraphs are condensed from the 18th chapter of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers,' by Members of the Alpine Club.

The dangers of Alpine expeditions may be divided into two classes—the real and the imaginary. Where a ridge or slope of rock or ice is such that it could be traversed without difficulty if it lay but a few feet above the level of a garden, the substitution on either side of a precipice some thousands of feet in depth, or of a glacier crevasse, makes no real difference in the work to be done, though it may have a formidable effect on the traveller's imagination. Those who cannot remove this source of danger by accustoming themselves to look unmoved down vertical precipices, and, in cases of real difficulty, to fix their attention exclusively on the ledge or jutting crag to which they must cling with foot or hand, should avoid expeditions where a moment's nervousness may endanger their own lives or those of others.

The real dangers of the high Alps may, under ordinary circumstances, be reduced to three. First, the yielding of the snow bridges that cover glacier crevasses; second, the risk of slipping upon steep slopes of hard ice; third, the fall of ice or rocks from above.

From the first and most frequent source of danger, absolute security is obtained by a precaution generally known, but often neglected. In the *higher* region of the glaciers crevasses, even of considerable width, are often completely bridged over by a covering of snow, so that no indication of their existence is seen on the surface of the glacier. The snow bridges often yield under the weight of a man's footsteps; in such a case an active man whose attention is on the alert may sometimes extricate himself at once, but it more commonly happens that he falls into the chasm beneath, in which case his chance of life is faint indeed. But if several travellers are tied together with a stout rope, as it is in the highest degree improbable that a majority of them should fall at the same moment into the same crevasses, no appreciable danger from this cause need be incurred. Even two travellers tied together may with proper attention avoid this risk, or

greater security is obtained when they are three or more in number. It is mainly because he cannot be protected from this danger that a man who goes alone over the higher regions of the great glaciers incurs a risk that must be called unjustifiable.

For surmounting steep ice slopes by cutting the necessary is the proper instrument, but there is some difference of opinion as to the form to be given to it. Considerable practice is required to use it with effect, and few amateurs acquire much proficiency. In considerable expeditions it is well to carry a second axe; it will sometimes supply a serious deficiency if the first should be lost or damaged. A committee of the Alpine Club, in 1864, recommended 3 different forms of ice-axe. These are to be procured complete of Mr. Leaver, of Maidenhead, at the prices of 18s., 21s., and 22s. respectively.

*Crampons* for the feet are never used by English mountaineers. The best guides, who trust entirely to their nailed boots and their own weight. Persons who have not sufficient nails to their boots, may supply on occasion, by screws of hard steel with square four-pointed heads, arranged in a convenient way for being driven into the soles of the boots. They are sold in London by Lund, in Fleet-street, and have been found very useful.

In spite of these precautions a traveller may slip on an ice slip if unchecked, a fall would lead to certain destruction. Against the rope is usually an effectual preservative. Cases, however, in which the footing is so precarious that a party cannot be tied together, were to slip, he would inevitably drag all his companions along with him to destruction. It is for those concerned to consider whether in such cases the object in view is such as to justify the inevitable peril of the attempt.

The danger arising from ice and fragments of rock falling from a higher level descends over a precipice or steep slope of rock. Experienced mountaineers learn to recognize the positions where ice or rock may either avoid such spots altogether or are careful to pass them early in the morning, before the sun has loosened the impending masses, or late in the day, after his rays have been withdrawn.

The ordinary risks of Alpine adventure are seriously increased during bad weather, and new dangers may then assail the traveller. Masses of rock are then detached from their previously firm resting-places, and come thundering down across the track. Falling snow obscures the view and effaces the footprints, so that it soon becomes equally difficult to advance and to retreat. Worst of all, when snow is accompanied by violent gusts of wind, the *tourmente*, or snow whirlwind, bewilders the traveller, half-blinded by the fine dust-like snow of the higher regions, and benumbs his limbs with its biting breath, if he be unable to keep up rapid exercise. A reasonable man will avoid bad weather in the high Alps whenever it can be foreseen, or resort to an immediate retreat when unexpectedly attacked by it. Attention to the bearings of the compass and to landmarks when the appearance of the weather becomes doubtful will generally enable a party to retrace their steps. Few summer travellers have an idea of the possible terrors of the Alps.

The best general rule for unpractised travellers wishing to attempt a difficult excursion is to take two good guides for each traveller, to trust to

their advice about the weather, to be careful to see before starting that they are supplied with a sufficiency of good sound rope, and, when the time comes for using it, to insist that it shall be fastened round the waist of each member of the party, so that both his arms shall be free for use in case of an emergency. To a neglect of this last precaution must doubtless be attributed the loss of three English travellers on the Col du Géant in 1860.

In all excursions on the higher glaciers spectacles of dark glass should be used to protect the eyes from the glare of the snow. Serious cases of inflammation have arisen from the neglect of this precaution. A gauze veil serves to protect the traveller in some degree from the effects of the intense radiance of the sun, and the glare of its reflexion from the snow. Most travellers in the upper regions lose the skin from every exposed part of the face and neck. Glycerine or cold cream is a preservative, or at least serves to give relief from this inconvenient concomitant of the pleasures of snow-travelling. Some persons recommend collodion, especially for the lips, which are apt to split in a painful way.

*Precautions for Health.*—Nothing is more conducive to health than the combination of exercise, pure air, and wholesome enjoyment which is found by a pedestrian in the Alps. A few simple rules should, however, be observed :—

If not already in training, be content to make very short journeys at first, and never allow your feet to blister. After a fortnight's practice you may undertake whatever you please. Any youth, not of a weakly frame, can readily put himself into sufficient "training" to undertake first-class excursions; but, without some training, the strongest-limbed athlete would break down.

Immediately on your arrival, after a day's walk, wash extensively with soap and hot water and change your linen. If at all fatigued, or if the circulation be hurried, lie down after washing and dressing, and try to sleep for a few minutes before dinner. When you have only a knapsack you should keep one set of underclothing for the evening exclusively.

After a moderate walk ordinary diet with wine and beer is unobjectionable; but when fatigued by unusual exertion there is nothing so useful as tea. After it you will sleep soundly when otherwise you would have been disturbed and feverish. A tumbler of lemon-juice, water, and sugar, if sipped (not gulped down), materially allays feverishness. Lemons can always be got at the inns.

### § 13. OBJECTS MOST DESERVING OF NOTICE IN SWITZERLAND—THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE—BATHS.

In order to travel with advantage in a country previously unknown, something more seems necessary than a mere detail of certain lines of road, and an enumeration of towns, villages, mountains, &c. The following section has been prepared with a view to furnish such preliminary information as may enable the tourist to turn his time to the best account; to decide where to dwell, and where to pass quickly. The task is difficult: let this serve as an excuse for its imperfect execution.

to travel in tweed trowsers, not in linen, which afford no protection against rain or changes of temperature in mountain regions. The clothes, if woollen, can hardly be too thin or light. In the months when Englishmen travel it is seldom cold, and often extremely hot. No one who has not ascended a mountain or a pass in the sun can form an idea of the intense heat he will be subject to.

*Portmanteaus* are better in England than anywhere else, but should not be too large. A carpet-bag or knapsack should always be taken, as a portmanteau requires a luggage-mule or a porter, whilst a carpet-bag will go behind the saddle, and the portmanteau may be sent round by the high road.

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From the first and most frequent source of danger, absolute security is obtained by a precaution generally known, but often neglected. In the *higher* region of the glaciers crevasses, even of considerable width, are often completely bridged over by a covering of snow, so that no indication of their existence is seen on the surface of the glacier. The snow bridges often yield under the weight of a man's footsteps; in such a case an active man whose attention is on the alert may sometimes extricate himself at once, but it more commonly happens that he falls into the chasm beneath, in which case his chance of life is faint indeed. But if several travellers are tied together with a stout rope, as it is in the highest degree improbable that a majority of them should fall at the same moment into the same crevasse, no appreciable danger from this cause need be incurred. Even two travellers tied together may with proper attention avoid this risk, but

mocracy, every male above the age of 20 having a vote, the result not unfrequently was, that the same persons, and their children after them, were always elected to the offices of trust and power.

The twenty-two cantons of which Switzerland is now composed were first united in 1814, when the old aristocracies were generally restored. Each canton had a vote in the annual diet, and whilst the diet was not sitting, by a most extraordinary arrangement, Berne, Lucerne, and Zürich, were alternately the Vorort, or presiding canton, and had the supreme government. In 1830 many of the cantons made great changes in their government, and the power of the old aristocracies was much reduced; the larger cantons becoming somewhat democratic in tendency, after the French model, and wishing to introduce great changes. The old mountain-cantons, however, Lucerne, Fribourg, Valais, Schwyz, Uri, Zug, and Unterwalden, were perfectly contented with their forms of government. From their geographical position it was impossible for them ever to become rich or commercial, and they probably perceived that the changes would do them no good, and would no doubt increase their taxation, and they wished to be let alone—a feeling in which most Englishmen will sympathise. It must, however, be added that these cantons are all catholic, and entirely subjected to their priests; generally very poor, and with a tendency to oppress their protestant fellow-citizens. In pursuance of their views they, in 1841, formed a league, or Sonderbund, to oppose by force, if necessary, the suppression of certain convents, and to maintain the jesuits. It was clear that whether their objects were right or wrong such a combination could not be permitted, and it was accordingly put down in 1847 by force, not without bloodshed. Since that time nearly all the cantons who had not altered their constitutions have done so, and a central government has been established at Berne, which is the seat of the Diet; at present in the majority of the cantons, particularly in the large protestant cantons, democratic principles, somewhat after the French model, have prevailed; and in the Diet the democratic, or radical party as it is called, has had the majority. Whatever may be thought of their principles, and although there are to be found amongst them many men full of the wild designs and vague aspirations common on the Continent, it must be admitted that hitherto they have behaved with moderation, and have effected many excellent changes, though with a great increase of taxation. The electric telegraph has been established, railways introduced; the coinage instead of being the worst has been made the best in Europe; diligences and posting established; tolls on roads abolished; custom-house duties imposed on bulky articles only, so that passengers' luggage is not examined; and a large sum is devoted every year to the making and maintaining the roads. These are not small improvements in seven or eight years, and it does not appear that any oppression has been exercised, unless the suppression of some convents, and the expulsion of the jesuits, can be looked upon in that view. Up to the present time the Diet has acted with great prudence; internally, where it has to contend with the jealousies of the cantons and the intolerance of the two religions—the discontent of the old cantons and the violence of the extreme democrats; and externally, where it has a difficult task between the great governments of France and Austria. The history of Switzerland up to 1840 is very well related in the History of Switzerland published by the Useful Know-

ledge Society; and a voluminous history (French and German) up to 1842 has been compiled by Müller. From that time, with the exception of Mr. Grote's Letters, which only relate to four or five years, there seems to be no compilation giving the general history of the country.

The traveller at all events should be slow to find fault with the Swiss government. There are no passports, no custom-houses, no tolls, no gendarmes; none of those ridiculous restrictions to prevent people from incurring danger which are so annoying in France and Germany; and no interference whatever with individual absolute freedom (with the exception of some vexatious regulations as to guides lately introduced), whilst there are nearly everywhere good inns, good roads, and tolerable means of locomotion.

The *Towns* of Switzerland exhibit many interesting marks of antiquity: their buildings are frequently found unchanged since a very early period; and in Lucerne, Freyburg, Basle, Bellinzona, and in several other instances, the feudal fortifications, with battlements and watch-towers, remain perfectly preserved. One characteristic and very pleasant feature are the *Fountains*, the never-failing ornament of every Swiss town and village. They usually consist of a Gothic ornamented pillar, surmounted by the figure of a man, usually some hero of Swiss history, either Tell, the dauntless crossbowman, or Winkelried, with his "sheaf of spears." Sometimes the figures of animals are substituted for the human form.

The Swiss, as compared with other nations on the Continent, have a respect for antiquity which we in England should consider decidedly an aristocratic feeling. The old heroes of the country are held in great veneration, and there is no feeling of hatred for the former noble families. Each canton also puts up its coat-of-arms in every place where heraldic display would be at all admissible.

A singular custom, connected with education, prevails in some parts of Switzerland, which deserves notice here, from the influence which it exercises over society. In many of the large towns, children of the same age and sex are associated together by their parents in little knots and clubs, called *Sociétés de Dimanche*. The parents seek out for their children an eligible set of companions when they are still quite young. The parties so formed amount to twelve or fifteen in number, and the variation of age between them is not more than two or three years. All the members meet in turn on Sunday evenings, at the houses of their parents, while children, to play together and partake of tea, cakes, and sweetmeats, attended by their *bonnes* or nurses; when grown up, to pass the evening in other occupations and amusements suited to their age. At these meetings not even brothers or sisters are present, except they are members of the society. From thus being constantly thrown together on all occasions, a strict friendship grows up among the members of each brotherhood or sisterhood, which generally lasts through life, even after the parties are settled and dispersed about the world. The females, even when grown up, distinguish their companions by such endearing terms as "*ma mignonne*," "*mon cœur*," "*mon ange*," &c. This practice renders Swiss society very exclusive, and few strangers, however well introduced, penetrate below the surface. When a young woman marries, her husband



is admitted into the society to which she belongs, and thus the wife determines the caste of the husband.

*Costumes* distinguishing the people of each canton were nearly universal before 1830. They are now rapidly disappearing, but may still be seen in the Bernese Oberland, and the women in many cantons have peculiar head-dresses. The men never wear a costume, and are usually attired in brown undyed homespun cloth.

*Ranz de Vaches*.—It is not uncommon to find the *Ranz de Vaches* spoken of, by persons unacquainted with Switzerland and the Alps, as a single air, whereas they are a class of melodies prevailing among and peculiar to the Alpine valleys. Almost every valley has an air of its own, but the original air is said to be that of Appenzell. Their effect in producing home-sickness in the heart of the Swiss mountaineer, when heard in a distant land, and the prohibition of this music in the Swiss regiments in the service of France, on account of the number of desertions occasioned by it, are stories often repeated, and probably founded on fact.

These national melodies are particularly wild in their character, yet full of melody; the choruses consist of a few remarkable shrill notes, uttered with a peculiar falsetto intonation in the throat. They originate in the practice of the shepherds on the Alps, of communicating with one another at the distance of a mile or more, by pitching the voice high. The name *Ranz de Vaches* (Germ. *Kuhreihen*), literally *cow-rows*, is obviously derived from the order in which the cows march home at milking-time, in obedience to the shepherd's call, communicated by the voice, or through the *Alp-horn*, a simple tube of wood, wound round with bark, five or six feet long, admitting of but slight modulation, yet very melodious when caught up and prolonged by the mountain echoes. In some of the remoter pastoral districts of Switzerland, from which the ancient simplicity of manners is not altogether banished, the *Alp-horn* supplies, on the higher pastures, where no church is near, the place of the vesper-bell. The cow-herd, posted on the highest peak, as soon as the sun has set, pours forth the first four or five notes of the Psalm, "Praise God the Lord;" the same notes are repeated from distant Alps, and all within hearing, uncovering their heads and bending their knees, repeat their evening orison, after which the cattle are penned in their stalls, and the shepherds betake themselves to rest.

A word may be said on *Swiss Husbandry* to draw the attention of such persons as take an interest in the subject, to one or two practices peculiar to the country. The system of irrigating the meadows is carried to a very great extent and perfection; the mountain-torrents are turned over the fields by means of trenches and sluices, and not unfrequently, when the ground is much inclined, the stream is conducted to the spot where it is required through troughs hollowed out of the stem of fir-trees. The trenches sometimes extend for miles. The drainings of dunghills, cow-houses, and pigsties are not allowed to run to waste, but are carefully collected in a vat by the farmer, and at the fit moment carried out in carts to the fields, and ladled over them, very much to their benefit, and to the equal disgust of the olfactory nerves of all who pass; the air, far and near, being filled with this truly Swiss fragrance. The industry of the people and their struggles for subsistence, in some of the high valleys, are truly wonderful. The grain-crops are wretched, but the grass is sweet and

good. (See § 15.) In the best and lowest pasturages they get three crops a-year. The cattle feed on the high mountains during the summer, and are supported in châteaux by the hay of the valley during the long winter. An Englishman accustomed to buy everything, can hardly realise the domestic economy of a Swiss peasant. He has his patches of wheat, of potatoes, of barley, of hemp, of flax, and, if possible, of vines; his own cows, his own goats, his own sheep. On the produce of his own land and flocks he feeds; his clothes are of homespun, from the wool of his sheep; his linen and the dresses of the women of his family are made from his own flax or hemp, frequently woven by the women of his own family. The timber he requires for his house or for firing is supplied from the land of the commune or parish, either for nothing or for a very small sum. What little money he requires is derived from the sale of cheese. The interior economy of a Swiss village is very interesting: it is only by ingenious contrivances for saving labour and by amazing industry that it is possible for the inhabitants to maintain themselves in such a climate.

The Swiss mountaineers are skilful marksmen with the rifle, and, like their neighbours the Tyrolese, meet constantly to practise and engage in trials of skill. There are clubs or societies in almost every valley and parish, and constant matches between them; besides which, in most of the cantons, and every year, a *grand Federal Rifle Match* is held near one or other of the large towns, at which all the best shots from the whole of Switzerland meet to contend for a prize. The late Lord Vernon gained the *first* prize at the Federal Match held at Basle, 1849.

There is *no regular army* in Switzerland, nor, with the exception of a few superior officers, is there any one who makes the army his exclusive profession. Every Swiss able-bodied man is however a soldier, and up to a certain age is called out for some weeks in the year to be drilled. This duty does not seem to be unpopular with the men, but their parents croak over the feasting and other extravagancies on these occasions. Large bodies of soldierlike men are occasionally met with, going to or returning from their annual drill. The army was divided on Jan. 1, 1863, into 3 descriptions of service, according to their age, viz. the *Elite* or *Contingent*, 83,900; the *Reserve*, 43,700; the *Landwehr*, 68,700; and *Federal Staff*, 637. Also the whole male population between 18 and 44, amounting to 340,000 men, are supposed to be available on an emergency. There are some crack corps, admission to which is obtained by exhibiting unusual skill with the rifle. The Swiss are by no means indisposed for fighting in their domestic disputes, and the contests between the different parties have been sanguinary and well contested.

Annual *contests in wrestling* also (called *Schwing Feste*) are held in different parts of Switzerland. The cantons which distinguish themselves for skill in this and other athletic exercises are Bern, Appenzell, and Unterwalden.

In the mountains everything is carried on men's and women's backs. Children of nine or ten are seen with a little wooden frame on their backs; as they grow older the size of the frame increases, and the weights which the men carry are surprising: 70 or 80 lbs. for 4 or 5 hours over the mountains. A man will carry 45 lbs. from Meyringen to Guttanen, 3 hours up a mountain-path, for 2 francs, or up the Rigi for 4½ francs.

*Baths and Kurs.*—In the course of this work baths will constantly be



mentioned. There are many mineral springs in Switzerland, much resorted to by the Swiss themselves and by foreigners, but treated with utter neglect by the English, not one in a thousand of whom ever goes through a course of these baths. The arrangements are generally very rough; and there is an empiric course, or "kur," prescribed for each, from which benefit is supposed to be derived. There are other "kurs" in which faith is placed by foreigners. At Gais and other places the patient is put upon a diet of the milk left after cheese has been made: this is called "cure au petit lait." Near Vevay the grape "kur" is popular. The white sorts only are used, and of these from six to seven pounds are not unfrequently consumed in one day. The grapes are only eaten in the morning and forenoon, the other diet being chiefly animal, neither vegetables, milk, coffee, nor wine, being allowed. The grapes are supposed to improve the quality of the blood, and to act on the liver and mucous membranes. It might be imagined that the appetite would be palled by so large a quantity of grapes, but, on the contrary, it is said to be keenly excited: the "kur" is followed during a fortnight or three weeks under medical surveillance.

#### § 14. ALPINE PASSES.

No part of the Alps is more interesting, either in a picturesque or in an historical point of view, than the passable gaps or notches in the ridge of the great chain, and the minor mountain buttresses branching from it, whereby alone this colossal wall of mountains may be scaled, and a direct passage and communication maintained between northern and southern Europe, as well as between one valley and another. It has been through these depressions that the great tide of population has poured since the earliest times; from these outlets have issued the barbarian swarms which so often desolated, and at last annihilated, the Roman Empire. There are more than 50 of these passes over the Swiss portion of the Alpine chain alone, or immediately communicating with the Swiss frontier.\* A list of the principal passes is given in § 19.

In seeking a passage over the Alps, the most obvious course was to find out the valleys which penetrate farthest into the great chain, following the course of the rivers to their sources, and then to take the lowest traversable part in order to descend the opposite side. The variety and sudden transition presented by such a route are highly interesting. In the course of one day's journey the traveller passes from the climate of summer to winter, through spring. The alteration in the productions keeps pace with that of the temperature. Leaving behind him stubble-fields, whence the corn has been removed and housed, he comes to fields yet yellow and waving in the ear; a few miles farther and the crop is still green; yet higher, and corn refuses to grow. Before quitting the region of corn he enters one of dark, apparently interminable forests of pine and larch, clothing the mountain-sides in a sober vestment. Above this the hay-makers are collecting the short grass, the only produce which the ground will yield. Yet the stranger must not suppose that all is barrenness

\* Mr. Brockedon has admirably illustrated them, both with his pencil and pen, in his beautiful work entitled 'The Passes of the Alps,' 2 vols. 4to.

even at this elevation. It seems as though nature were determined to make one last effort at the confines of the region of vegetation. From beneath the snow-bed, and on the very verge of the glacier, the profusion of flowers, their great variety, and surpassing beauty, are exceedingly surprising. Some of the greatest ornaments of our gardens, here born to blush unseen,—gentians, violets, anemones, and blue-bells, intermixed with bushes of the red rhododendron, the loveliest production of the Alps, scattered over the velvet turf, give it the appearance of a carpet of richest pattern. The insect world is not less abundant and varied,—thousands of winged creatures are seen hovering over the flowers, enjoying their short existence, for the summer at these elevations lasts but for 3 or 4 weeks: a premature winter soon cuts short this brief season of animal and vegetable activity. Above this region of spring, with its gush of springs, its young herbage and vivid greensward, its hum of insects just burst forth, and its natural flower-beds glittering with rain-drops, that of winter in Lapland or Siberia succeeds. The traveller may form an idea of the height he has reached by observing the vegetation. Vines disappear at 2000 feet, generally sooner; oak-trees and wheat at 3000 feet; beeches and barley at 4000 feet; pines and firs at 6000 feet. Above 9000 feet flowering plants are very rare, but up to 11,000 feet they are found in sunny crevices. Above 11,000 feet a few blackened lichens alone preserve the semblance of vegetable life. It will of course be understood that in favourable situations these limits will be exceeded; in unfavourable situations they will not be reached. At the summit of a high pass and amongst the glaciers the rarefied air is icy cold, and exercise and quick motion are necessary to keep up the circulation of the blood. The agreeable murmur of falling water, which has accompanied the traveller hitherto incessantly, here ceases,—all is solitude and silence, interrupted only by the shrill whistle of the marmot, or the hoarse cawing of an ill-omened raven. The ptarmigan starts up from among the broken rocks on the verge of the snow-field at the traveller's approach, and the *kämmergeyer* (the condor of the Alps), disturbed in his repast on the carcase of a sheep or cow, may sometimes be seen soaring upwards in a succession of corkscrew sweeps till he gains the ridge of the Alps, and then disappears.

Such are the remarkable gradations which the stranger encounters in the course of a few hours, on a single pass of the Alps; but the most striking change of all is that from the region of snow and ice on the top of the mountain, to the sunny clime and rich vegetation of Italy, which await the traveller at the S. foot of the Alps. (See Rte. 59.)

The works of Nature, however, will not entirely occupy the attention and wonder of the wanderer in such a pass; at least a share will be demanded for admiration of the works of man. The great highways, passable for carriages, over the high Alps, are, indeed, most surprising monuments of human skill and enterprise in surmounting what would appear, at first sight, to be intended by Nature as insurmountable. These proud constructions of art thread the valleys, cross the débris of rivers on long causeways, skirt the edge of the precipice, with walls of rock tottering over them, and torrents thundering below. Where the steep and hard surface of the cliff has not left an inch of space for a goat to climb along, they are conducted upon high terraces of solid masonry, or through a notch blasted by gunpowder in the wall of rock. In many instances a projectin

buttress of the mountain has blocked up all passage for ages, saying "thus far and no farther:" the skill of the modern engineer has pierced through this a tunnel or gallery; and the difficulty is vanquished, without the least change in the level of the road.

Sometimes an impediment is eluded by throwing bridges over a dizzy gorge, and shifting the road from side to side, frequently two or three times within the space of half a mile. Often the road reaches a spot down which the winter avalanches take their habitual course every year, sweeping everything before them, and which, even in summer, appears reeking and dripping with the lingering fragments of snow which it has left behind. Will not so irresistible an antagonist arrest the course of this frail undertaking of man? Not even the avalanche;—in such a situation the road either buries itself in subterranean galleries, driven through the mountain, or is sheltered by massive arcades of masonry, sometimes half a mile or three-quarters of a mile long. Over these the avalanche glides harmlessly, and is turned into the depths below.

Every opportunity is seized of gaining, by easy ascents, a higher level for the road; at length comes the main ascent, the central ridge, to be surmounted only by hard climbing. This is overcome by a succession of zigzag terraces, called *tourniquets* or *giravolte*, connected together by wide curves, to allow carriages to turn easily and rapidly. So skilful is their construction, with such easy bends and so gradual a slope, that in many Alpine roads the postilions, *with horses accustomed to the road*, trot down at a rapid pace. Sometimes as many as 50 of these zigzags succeed one another without interruption; and the traveller, as he passes backwards and forwards, hovering over the valley, is as though suspended to a pendulum, and swinging to and fro. The road itself has a most singular appearance, twisted about like an uncoiled rope or a riband unwound.

The travelling-carriage descends sometimes rapidly and without interruption for hours. A drag of tempered iron is quickly worn down, in that time, as thin as the blade of a knife, so great is the friction; and it is usual to substitute for the iron drag a wooden sabot, formed of the section of a fir-tree, with a groove cut in the centre to admit the wheel.

The winter's snow usually falls upon the Alpine passes more than 5000 ft. high about the second week in October (sometimes earlier), and continues till the first or second week in June. Yet even after this, the passage across the neck or Col, as it is called, is not stopped, except for a few days, until the snow can be cleared away. In some of the minor passes, indeed, traversed by a mere rough footpath or bridle-path, the traffic is much increased after the fall of the snow, which, by filling up depressions and smoothing the way, permits the transport of heavy merchandise on sledges, which move easily over the surface as soon as it is hardened.

Along the lines of the great carriage-roads strong houses are erected at intervals, called *Maisons de Refuge*, *Case di Ricovero*, occupied by persons called *Cantoniers*, who are employed in mending the road and keeping it free from snow in winter, and are also paid to assist travellers in danger during snow-storms.

As near as possible to the summit of the pass a *Hospice* is generally erected, usually occupied by a band of charitable monks, as in the case of the Great St. Bernard, the Simplon, Cenis, St. Gothard, &c. The direction of the road across the summit of the ridge is marked by a line of tall poles,

which project above the snow, and, from being painted black, are easily recognised. Bells are rung in tempestuous weather, when the ourmente is raging and the mist and falling snow hide the landmarks, that the sound may aid when the sight fails.

The morning after a fall of snow labourers and peasants are assembled from all sides to shovel it off from the road. Where it is not very deep, it is cleared away by a snow-plough drawn by 6 or 8 oxen. As the winter advances and fresh falls occur, the snow accumulates, and the road near the summit of a pass presents the singular aspect of a path or lane cut between walls of snow sometimes 10 or 20 ft. high. Carriages are taken off their wheels and fastened upon sledges; ropes are attached to the roof, which are held by 6 or 8 sturdy guides running along on each side, to prevent the vehicle upsetting and rolling over the slippery ice down a precipice. More commonly, however, travellers are transferred to light narrow one-horse sledges, each carrying two passengers, by which communication is kept up, except during winter storms, when no living animal can withstand the fury of the elements. In this manner very high passes are crossed in the depth of winter with little risk. The spring is a season during which far greater danger is to be apprehended, from the avalanches which then fall.

The Swiss are essentially a road-making nation, and had good roads when those of continental Europe generally were still execrable. They bestow an amount of care and expense in avoiding hills and steep declivities which should make an Englishman ashamed of the state of things in the hilly parts of England. It is, however, strange that, after having spent enormous time and money in making a road level and good enough for a mail-coach at 11 miles an hour, they should persist in crawling along at 5 or 6 miles an hour.

### § 15. CHÂLETS AND PASTURAGES.

From the mountainous nature of Switzerland and its high elevation, the greater part of the surface, more than 1800 ft. above the sea, which is not bare rock, is pasture-land. The wealth of the people, like that of the patriarchs of old, in a great measure lies in cattle and their produce, on which account the pastoral life of the Swiss deserves some attention. The bright verdure of the meadows which clothe the valleys of Switzerland is one of the distinguishing features of the country; and the music of the cow-bells, borne along by the evening breeze, is one of the sweetest sounds that greet the traveller's ear.

The Alps, or mountain-pasturages (for that is the meaning of the word Alp in Switzerland and Tyrol) are usually the property of the commune; in fact common land, on which the inhabitants of the neighbouring town or village have the right of pasturing a certain number of cattle, the regulations as to which are often very curious.

“In the spring, as soon as the snow has disappeared, and the young grass sprouts up, the cattle are sent from the villages up to the first and lower pastures. Should a certain portion of these be exhausted, they change their quarters to another part of the mountain. Here they stay till about the 10th or 12th of June, when the cattle are driven to the

middle ranges of pastures. That portion of the herds intended for a summer campaign on the highest Alps remain here till the beginning of July, and on the 4th of that month generally ascend to them; return to the middle range of pastures about 7 or 8 weeks afterwards, spend there about 14 days or 3 weeks, to eat the aftergrass; and finally return into the valleys about the 10th or 11th of October, where they remain in the vicinity of the villages till driven by the snow and tempests of winter into the stables.

“That portion of the cattle, on the other hand, which is not destined to pass the summer on the higher Alps, and are necessary for the supply of the village with milk and butter, descend from the middle pastures on the 4th of July into the valley, and consume the grass upon the pasturage belonging to the commune, till the winter drives them under shelter. The very highest Alpine pasturages are never occupied more than 3 or 4 weeks at the furthest.”—*Latrobe*. The tourist in the higher Alps continually meets the flocks and herds migrating from one pasture to another, or to the valley below.

Sometimes the owners of the cattle repair in person to the Alps, and pass the summer among them along with their families, superintending the herdsmen, and assisting in the manufacture of cheese; and in some parts there are whole villages inhabited only temporarily; but in general only a sufficient number of men to attend to the herds and to make the cheeses remain with the cattle, in which case the cows or goats belonging to each owner are tried twice a-year, i. e. the amount of cheese produced in a day or two by each is ascertained; then at the end of the season the cheese made is divided among the owners in the proportions indicated by the trial. The best cheeses are made upon pastures 3000 ft. above the sea-level, in the vales of Simmen and Saanen (Gruyère) and in the Emmenthal. The best cows there yield, in summer, between 20 lbs. and 40 lbs. of milk daily, and each cow produces, by the end of the season of 4 months, on an average, 2 cwt. of cheese.

The life of the cowherd (Fr. *Vacher*, Germ. *Senner*) is by no means such an existence of pleasure as romances in general, and that of Rousseau in particular, have represented it. His labours are dirty, arduous, and constant; he has to collect 80 or 90 cows twice a-day to be milked, to look after stragglers, to make the cheese, and keep all the utensils employed in the process in the most perfect state of cleanliness. The cowherd has generally, as assistants, a friend (Freund), who acts as a carrier to the low country, and a lad (Kuhbub). In some parts the herdsmen live for many months almost entirely on milk and cheese, not eating 10 lbs. of bread or potatoes in the time. The cattle are frequently enticed home at milking time by the offer of salt, which they relish highly, and which is considered very wholesome for them. The allowance for a cow is 4 or 5 lbs. in a quarter of a year. The *Stoss* is an extent of pasture sufficient for the maintenance of 1 cow, or 1 colt, or 4 calves, or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a horse.

The *Châlet* (Germ. *Sennhütte*) in which the herdsman resides is literally a log-hut, formed of trunks of pines, notched at the extremities so as to fit into one another at the angles of the building, where they cross: it has a low flat roof, weighted with stones to keep fast the shingle-roof and prevent its being blown away by the wind. A building of this kind is rarely air-tight or water-tight. The interior is usually blackened with smoke and very dirty, boasting of scarcely any furniture, except, perhaps, a table

and rude bench, and the apparatus of the dairy, including a huge kettle for heating the milk. A truss of straw, in the loft above, serves the inmates for a bed. The ground around the hut on the outside is usually poached by the feet of the cattle, and the heaps of mud and dung render it difficult to approach the door.

There is another kind of *châlet*, a mere shed or barn, in which the hay is housed until the winter, when it is conveyed over the snow in sledges down to the villages below. A pastoral Swiss valley is usually speckled over with huts of this kind, giving it the appearance, to a stranger, of being much more populous than it is in reality: in the Simmenthal alone there are, it is said, 10,000 *châlets*. This large number of *châlets* is necessary, because everything—goats, sheep, cattle, horses, and food—must be put under cover for some months during the snow.

The herdsmen shift their habitations from the lower to the upper pasturages, as their cattle ascend and descend the Alps, at different seasons, and they sometimes have 2 or 3 places of temporary abode. The experienced traveller is careful to inquire beforehand what *châlets* are occupied; otherwise when in search of repose or refreshment, after a long day's journey, he is liable to the disappointment, on approaching what he conceives to be a human habitation, of finding that it is a mere hay-barn, or else a deserted *châlet*; and he may learn, with much mortification, that he has still some tedious miles to trudge before he can reach the first permanently occupied dwelling. What an agreeable contrast to reach a well-appointed *châlet* of the better sort, where delicious milk cooled in the mountain stream, fresh butter, bread, and cheese, are spread out on a clean napkin before the hungry and tired stranger!

## § 16. GLACIERS\* (GERM. GLETSCHER: ITAL. GHIACCIAIA).

The Glaciers are amongst the most remarkable objects in nature: to them Alpine scenery owes much of its strangeness and sublimity. A glacier may be described as a stream of ice, descending into the valleys of high mountain chains, fed by the snow which occupies their tops and fills the hollows and clefts between their peaks and ridges; what it loses by melting at its lower end is supplied by the descent of new masses from the upper regions. The snow which falls upon the summits and plateaux of the high Alps is at first a dry and loose powder. The action of the sun gradually converts this into a granular mass, as the minute particles are aggregated together in irregular roundish grains. In this state the entire mass appears white and opaque, but the separate grains are transparent. In the course of successive years, as one layer accumulates over another, pressure begins to act on the lower portions of the mass. The separate grains being brought into contact adhere together, until the whole becomes a seemingly solid mass of ice. The accumulation of snow, partly transformed into ice, in the upper regions, may be many hundreds

\* The best information respecting glaciers is to be found in Professor Forbes' 'Travels in the Alps,' already alluded to, in Agassiz's 'Études sur les Glaciers,' Tyndall's 'Glaciers of the Alps,' and Forbes's 'Occasional Papers on the Theory of Glaciers.' Local names for glaciers—in Tyrol, *Firn*; in Carinthia, *Käs*; in the Grisons, *Wader* or *Vedreg*; in part of Italy, *Vedrette*; in the Vallais, *Biegno*; in Piedmont, *Ruize*; in the Pyrenees, *Serneille*.



of feet in thickness, and the pressure on the undermost part is therefore enormously great. The glacier ice yields to this pressure, and is gradually forced downwards on the slopes of the mountain into the upper valleys which afford the easiest channels for its descent. The upper granular and unconsolidated part is called in German *Firn*, or *Névé* in French, the term *Glacier* (Gletscher) being applied to the lower limbs of more solid ice, which stretch down into the valleys. The *Firn*, or *Névé*, is a region of complete desolation; no animal intrudes upon it save a chance insect, and only the scantiest lichens appear on the rocks around it. The *firn* occurs only at a height where the snow which falls in the winter does not entirely disappear in the course of the following year; while that which falls on the lower glacier is almost always melted in the course of the following summer, and never combines with the ice.\*

Escher has computed the number of glaciers among the Swiss Alps at 600, and the extent of surface occupied by them at 1000 square miles: this, however, must be but a vague estimate. They vary from a few square yards to acres and miles in extent, covering, in some instances, whole districts, filling up entirely the elevated hollows and basins between the peaks and ridges of the Alps, and sending forth arms and branches into the inhabited valleys, below the region of forests, and even below the level at which corn will grow.

It is such offsets of the glacier as these that are presented to the view of the traveller from the villages of Chamouni, Zermatt, and Grindelwald. These, however, are, as it were, but the skirts and fringes of that vast everlasting drapery of ice which clothes all the upper region of the Alps. These fields or tracts of uninterrupted glacier have been called "Seas of Ice" (*Mers de Glace*, *Eismeeren*), and there are three such among the Swiss and Savoyard Alps, which merit especial mention; that around Mont Blanc, that around the Monte Rosa and the Cervin, and that of the Bernese Oberland, around the Finster-Aar-Horn. The last sends out no less than 13 branches; its extent has been estimated at 125 square m., and it is supposed to be the largest in Europe.

The greatest thickness of the glaciers has been commonly estimated at between 600 and 800 ft. The greatest thickness of the *Mer de Glace*, on the N. flank of Mont Blanc, is estimated by Forbes at 350 ft. deep. Saussure had calculated it at 600 ft. Agassiz assures us that there are holes in the Aar glacier 780 ft. deep.

Notwithstanding their great extent and solidity, the glaciers are under-

\* A serious error is conveyed by the common expression, "the line of perpetual snow," or, "where snow never melts." There is no spot on the Alps, nor on any other snow-clad mountains, where snow does not melt under the influence of a summer sun at mid-day. It melts even on the top of Mont Blanc; but there, and on the summits of the other high Alps, the duration of the sun's heat is so short, that very little is melted during the year, and, for the same reason, there is very little moisture in the air, and, consequently, very little snow can fall: and the greater part of this is carried to a lower level by the storms which often rage round the mountain tops. What is called "the snow line" does not depend on elevation alone, but on all the circumstances which affect the quantity of snow that falls during a year, and the quantity that melts during the same period. It is the limit at which the quantity melted in the year exactly equals the quantity that has fallen. Independent of a certain amount of variation from one season to another, it varies with the latitude, with the exposure to certain winds, and even on the two sides of the same mountain, being generally higher on the S. side than the N. The snow will likewise rest longer, and extend lower down, upon a mountain of granite than upon one of limestone, in proportion as the two rocks are good or bad conductors of heat, and this is the case even in contiguous mountains, members of the same chain.

going a perpetual process of renovation and destruction. The lower portions descending into the valleys are gradually dissolved by the increased temperature which prevails at so low a level. The summer sun, aided by warm winds, acts upon the surface, so that, in the middle of the day, it abounds in pools, and is traversed by rills of water. The constant evaporation, from every part exposed to the air, produces great diminution in the upper beds; the temperature of the earth, also, which is at all seasons greater than that of ice, melts yearly a small portion of its lower surface. By the combined influence of these causes the bulk and thickness of the glacier are reduced during the hot season until in the autumn it has fallen many feet below its ordinary level. The vacancy thus caused is entirely filled up from above by the winter's snow falling upon the mountain-tops, and on the whole upper region of the high Alps, which flows into the higher valleys, pressed down by its own weight. Henceforth the ice-stream, like the river, moves onward steadily by day and night, and even in the winter, though its progress is slower,

“The glacier's cold and restless mass  
Moves onward day by day.”—*Byron*.

It is also sensibly retarded by hard frost, and accelerated by thaw. The snow which has fallen in the winter on the lower part of the glacier melts in the spring, as it would on land; and, on cold nights, the small pools of water on the glacier freeze, and thaw again under the sun's rays.

The cause of the movement of glaciers has been much discussed and variously explained. De Saussure supposed that it proceeds from their weight alone, and that they slide down the inclined surface of the valleys, aided by the ice melting below, in contact with the earth. Others believed that the descent was caused by dilatation of the glacier, in consequence of the water that penetrates the mass of ice, alternately thawing and freezing. The theory of their motion now generally accepted by scientific men is that of Professor J. D. Forbes, modified in some respects by the subsequent researches of Professor Tyndall. Without adverting to disputed points, which are discussed in their works, it may be said that under the pressure of its own enormous weight glacier ice becomes plastic and moulds itself to the form of the channel through which it moves. It is not uncommon to see one of these vast rivers of ice turn sharply round a projecting promontory of rock, or contract its bed to less than half its previous width in passing through a gorge, and then expand again in a more open part of the valley. The centre of the ice-stream moves quicker than the sides, which are retarded by the friction of the rocks, &c., and, for the same reason, the top moves faster than the bottom. The rate of onward motion varies very much in different glaciers, according to the slope and the mass of ice in motion. Opposite the Montanvert the quickest moving part moves about 30 inches a day in summer, 16 inches in winter.—See Tyndall's ‘Glaciers of the Alps.’

The surface of the mountain, which forms the bed of a glacier, however hard, is subjected to an extraordinary process of grinding and polishing from the vast masses of ice constantly passing over it. The harder fragments, such as granite and quartz, interposed between the ice and the rock, act like diamonds on glass, and scratch deep and long grooves on the surface. The seat of ancient glaciers, which have now entirely disappeared



may still be discovered by the furrows left behind them on the rocks. These furrows and polished surfaces (*roches moutonnées*) are very remarkable above Guttanen on the Grimsel road. The motion of a glacier may be admirably observed at the Rosenlauri glacier. The foot of the glacier there, being on a surface of rock, marks its advance or retrogression daily by the heaps of rubbish it pushes forwards, whilst on the rocks above may be seen the moraine of the glacier in former years when it was larger.

The nature of the upper surface of the ice depends partly upon that of the ground on which it rests: where it is even, or nearly so, the ice is smooth and level; but whenever the supporting surface becomes slanting or uneven, the glacier begins to split and gape in all directions. As it approaches a steeper declivity or precipice, as in the lower glacier of Grindelwald, the entire mass is cleft by deep and wide fissures, which generally intersect each other, leaving crags, obelisks, and towers of ice of the most fantastic shapes, varying in height from 20 to 80 ft. Being unequally melted by the wind and sun, they are continually changing their form and crumbling away, either by their own weight, or the pressure of other masses. After the difficulties are passed, these *aiguilles* and obelisks of ice, being pressed together at the bottom of the descent, close up again, and, as soon as the surface of the mountain below them is level, the glacier again assumes a nearly level and compact character.

The *Crevasses*, or fissures, which traverse the upper portion of the glacier, before it becomes entirely fractured and disrupted, run in a transverse direction, never extending quite across the ice-field, but narrowing out at the extremities, so that, when they gape too wide to leap across, they may be turned by following them to their termination. These rents and fissures are the chief source of danger to those who cross the glaciers; sometimes, from their numbers, monotonous sameness of appearance, and perplexing confusion, by which the traveller is nearly bewildered, and even the most experienced guides are sometimes at fault and lose their way, and have the greatest difficulty in extricating themselves from their intricacies. In the upper regions the crevasses are concealed by a treacherous coating of snow; and many a bold chamois-hunter has found a grave in their recesses. Ebel mentions an instance of a shepherd, in 1787, who, in driving his flock over the ice to a high pasturage, had the misfortune to tumble into one of these clefts. He fell in the vicinity of a torrent which flowed under the glacier, and, by following up its bed under the ice, succeeded in reaching the surface of the glacier with a broken arm. The man's name was Christian Bohren: he was living in 1849, and acted as guide to the upper glacier of Grindelwald. More melancholy was the fate of M. Mouron, a clergyman of Vevay: he was engaged in making some scientific researches upon the glacier, and was in the act of leaning over to examine a singular well-shaped aperture in the ice, when the staff on which he rested gave way; he was precipitated to the bottom, and his lifeless and mangled body was recovered from the depths of the glacier a few days after. It may be hoped that the attention recently directed to this subject by several fatal accidents may induce travellers to adopt the precautions already urged in § 12.

The crevasses, owing their formation to the advancing movement of the glacier, whatever causes tend to accelerate that movement, tend at the same

time to widen existing crevasses and to produce new ones. In this way the warm S. or S.E. wind, called the *föhn* in Uri and among the Bernese Alps, is very instrumental in causing the glacier to split, and the loud reports thus occasioned, called by the herdsmen the growlings (*brullen*) of the glacier, are regarded as a sign of bad weather, because the same wind, bearing a current of heated air from the plains of Italy or the Adriatic, causes rain or snow when this current is cooled down among the higher peaks of the Alps. The traveller who ventures to cross any of the larger glaciers may, at times, both hear and see the fissures widening around him. The crevasses exhibit in perfection the beautiful *azure blue* colour of the glacier; the cause of which has not been satisfactorily accounted for. It is the same tint of ultramarine which the Rhône exhibits at Geneva, after leaving all its impurities behind it in the lake; and the writer has even observed the same beautiful tint in footmarks and holes made in fresh-fallen snow, not more than a foot deep, among the high Alps.—See Tyndall's 'Glaciers of the Alps.'

The traveller who has only *read* of glaciers is often disappointed at the first sight of them, by the appearance of their surface, which is rough, tossed about in hillocks and gullies, and, except when covered with fresh-fallen snow, or at very great heights, has none of the purity which might be expected from fields of ice. On the contrary, it usually exhibits a surface of dirty white, soiled with mud, and often covered with stones and gravel. Such beds of stone, dirt, and rubbish are common to most glaciers, and, when accumulated in continuous masses, are called *Moraines*, running along the glacier in parallel lines at the sides (called *lateral Moraines*, German *Gandecken*); or in the middle (*medial Moraines*, in German *Guffer*), and *terminal* or end Moraines. They are formed in the following manner:—The edges of the glacier, at its upper extremity, receive the fragments of rock detached from the mountains around by the destructive agency of moisture and frost; but as the glacier itself is constantly descending, this fallen rubbish goes along with it, increased from behind by the *débris* of each succeeding winter, so that it forms a nearly uninterrupted line from the top of the ice-field to the bottom, thus forming a lateral moraine. Wherever the glacier from one valley meets that of another, the moraines from the two unite and form one, running down the centre of the united glacier instead of along its margin, as before, thus forming a medial moraine. Such a confluence of moraines is well seen on the glacier of the Aar (Route 26); and upon the great glacier of Gorner descending from Monte Rosa (Route 127) six or eight may be seen running side by side, each traceable to its origin by the nature of the rocks composing it.

"The moraines remain upon the surface of the glacier, and, unless after a very long or very uneven course, they are not dissipated or ingulfed. On the contrary, the largest stones attain a conspicuous pre-eminence; the heaviest moraine, far from indenting the surface of the ice, or sinking amongst its substance, rides upon an icy ridge as an excrescence, which gives to it the character of a colossal back-bone of the glacier, or sometimes appears like a noble causeway, fit, indeed, for giants, stretching away for leagues over monotonous ice, with a breadth of some hundreds of feet, and raised from 50 to 80 ft. above its general level. Almost every stone, however, rests upon ice; the mound is not a mound of *débris*, as it might at first sight appear"—*Roche*

The *terminal moraines* are heaped up often to a height of 80 or 100 ft., and sometimes much higher: the moraines in the Allée Blanche and on the glacier of Blaitière at Chamouni must be 500 or 600 ft. high. Not unfrequently there are 3 or 4 such ridges, one behind the other, like so many lines of intrenchment. The broken stones, sand, and mud, mixed with shattered fragments of ice, of which they are composed, have an unsightly appearance, being perfectly barren of vegetation; but each heap is, as it were, a geological cabinet, containing specimens of all the neighbouring mountains. The glacier, indeed, has a natural tendency to purge itself from impurities, and whatever happens to fall upon it is gradually discharged in this manner. It likewise exerts great mechanical force, and, like a vast millstone, grinds down not only the rock which composes its channel, but all the fragments interposed between it and the rock; forming, in the end, a sort of stone-meal. The extent of the moraine depends on the character of the strata of the mountains around the glacier: where they are of granite, or other hard rock, not easily decomposed by the weather, the moraine is of small extent; and it is largest where the boundary rocks are of brittle limestone and fissile slate. The researches of Swiss naturalists (Agassiz and Charpentier) have discovered extensive moraines, not only in the lower part of the Valais, but even on the shores of the Lake Lemman, at a height of not more than 200 or 300 ft. above it; indicating that, during some anterior condition of our planet, the valley of the Rhône was occupied by glaciers, in situations at present 40 or 50 m. distant from the nearest existing ice-field, and 3000 or 4000 ft. below it. The existence of boulder-stones, so common on the Jura and elsewhere, is now generally attributed to glaciers, the boulders having been either carried on the surface of glaciers to their present position, or floated there on icebergs broken off from glaciers.\*

A singular circumstance occurs when a single large mass of rock has fallen upon the glacier; the shade and protection from the sun's rays afforded by the stone prevents the ice on which it rests from melting, and, while the surface around is gradually lowered, it remains supported on a pedestal or table, like a mushroom on a stalk, often attaining a height of several feet; at length the stone falls off the pillar and the process recommences. The glaciers of the Aar furnish fine examples of these *tables des glaciers*, as they are called. The surface of the glacier has been ascertained to lose 3 ft. of surface by melting in as many weeks of fine warm weather. An exactly opposite phenomenon occurs when a small stone, not more than an inch thick, or a leaf, rests upon the ice. As it absorbs the sun's rays with greater rapidity than ice, not merely its surface but its entire substance is warmed through, and instead of protecting it melts the ice below it, and gradually sinks, forming a hole to a considerable depth, and generally a pool of water, of which the traveller is often glad to avail himself: these little pools are generally frozen over at night.

The occurrence of Red Snow, which at one time was treated with incredulity, is common among the High Alps, and is produced either by minute insects and their eggs, or by a species of cryptogamic plant, called *Palmella Nivalis*, or *Protococcus*, a true vegetable, which plants itself on the surface of the snow, takes root, germinates, produces seed, and dies. In the state of

\* See an interesting paper on the Ancient Glaciers of Switzerland and North Wales, by Professor Ramsay, Local Director of the Geological Survey of England, in 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers;' also published separately.

germination it imparts a pale carmine tint to the snow : this increases, as the plant comes to maturity, to a deep crimson blush, which gradually fades, and, as the plant decays, becomes a black dust or mould. By collecting some of the coloured snow in a bottle, and pouring it on a sheet of paper, the form of the plant may be discovered with a microscope, as soon as the water has evaporated.

It has been already observed that the vacancy caused by the melting of the lower portion of the glacier is filled up by the winter snow from above. But, as may be supposed, it often happens, after mild winters and warm summers, that the supply is not equal to the void ; and *vice versa*, after severe winters and rainy summers, the glacier is overloaded, as it were : indeed, it is scarcely possible that an exact equilibrium of supply and consumption should be preserved, and there is no doubt that glaciers are subject both to temporary and to secular variation. The glaciers throughout the Alps appear to have made a general movement in advance between the years 1817 and 1822, in consequence of the coldness of the six preceding summers. The glaciers of Bossons and des Bois, in the valley of Chamouni, and that of Grindelwald, in the Bernese Alps, extended so far in width as well as length, as to overthrow large trees of the growth of many centuries. Afterwards they began to retreat, and soon regained their original limits. Instances have occurred of the sudden advance of a glacier, as in the Gadmenthal (Route 32), where a road has been destroyed by this cause, and even of the formation of new glaciers within the memory of man, as in the Upper Engadine (?), and at the base of the Titlis : but these have been followed by a similar retrocession, and the newly formed ice-fields are rarely permanent. It is certain that, at present, both the Mer de Glace, under Mont Blanc, and the Grindelwald Glacier, appear to have shrunk, and sunk considerably below the level they once attained ; but this may be merely temporary, or even only their dimensions in summer, when most reduced. Prof. Forbes states that in 1845 the glacier of Findelen, near Zermatt, was retreating ; since that time it has advanced, destroying fields and chalets ; and Sir C. Lyell has informed the Editor that it advanced in 1857, notwithstanding the unusual heat of that summer.

Professors Agassiz, Forbes, and Tyndall have made some interesting experiments and observations upon the movement and rate of progress of the glaciers ; but Hugi was the first observer who attempted to measure their advance. In 1829 the latter noted the position of numerous loose blocks lying on the surface of the lower glacier of the Aar, relatively to the fixed rocks at its sides. He also measured the glacier and erected signal-posts on it. In 1836 he found everything altered ; many of the loose blocks had moved off and entirely disappeared, along with the ice that supported them. A hut, which he had hastily erected, to shelter himself and his companions, had advanced 2184 ft. A mass of granite, containing 26,000 cubic ft., originally buried under the snow of the firn, which had become converted into glacier, had not only been raised to the surface, but was elevated above it, in the air, upon two pedestals, or pillars, of ice ; so that a large party might have found shelter under it. A signal-post, stuck into a mass of granite, had not only made as great an advance as the hut, but the distance between it and the hut had been increased 760 ft. by the expansion of the glacier. In 1839 M. Agassiz found that Hugi's cabin

had advanced 4400 ft. from the position it originally occupied, when first built in 1827 ; and in 1840 it was 200 ft. lower. Hugi's observations on the Aar glacier give as its rate of motion 240 ft. per annum. The more recent and precise observations of Professors Forbes and Tyndall have ascertained the daily motion of the ice on the Mer de Glace, and proved that it proceeds regularly, not by fits and starts, but accelerated in speed by thaws and retarded by frosts, and that the motion is different in different parts of the glacier. The advance of the ice-field of the Mer de Glace is calculated at between 600 and 700 ft. yearly, or nearly 2 ft. a day ; so that the traveller, whilst walking over the glacier, is insensibly descending to the valley below.

It is highly interesting to consider how important a service the glaciers perform in the economy of nature. These dead and chilly fields of ice, which prolong the reign of winter throughout the year, are, in reality, the source of life and the springs of vegetation. They are the locked-up reservoirs, the sealed fountains, from which the vast rivers traversing the great continents of our globe are sustained. The summer heat, which dries up other sources of water, first opens out their bountiful supplies. When the rivers of the plain begin to shrink and dwindle within their parched beds, the torrents of the Alps, fed by melting snow and glaciers, rush down from the mountains and supply the deficiency ; and, at that season (July and August), the rivers and lakes of Switzerland are fullest.

During the whole summer, the traveller who crosses the glaciers hears the torrents rustling and running below him at the bottom of the azure clefts. These plenteous rills gushing forth in their sub-glacial beds, are generally all collected in one stream, at the foot of the glacier, which, in consequence, is eaten away into a vast dome-shaped arch, sometimes 100 ft. high, gradually increasing until the constant thaw weakens its support, and it gives way and falls in with a crash. Such caverns of ice are seen in great perfection, in some years, at the source of the Arveyron, in the valley of Chamouni, and in the glaciers of Grindelwald. The streams issuing from glaciers are distinguished by their turbid dirty-white or milky colour. The waters collected by the melting of the ice from all parts of the surface of a glacier often accumulate into torrents, which, at length, precipitate themselves into a hole or fissure in its surface in the form of a cascade.

The following striking passage from Professor Forbes's ' Alps,' p. 386, will form a good conclusion to this account of glaciers :—" Poets and philosophers have delighted to compare the course of human life to that of a river ; perhaps a still apter simile might be found in the history of a glacier. Heaven-descended in its origin, it yet takes its mould and conformation from the hidden womb of the mountains which brought it forth. At first soft and ductile, it acquires a character and firmness of its own, as an inevitable destiny urges it on its onward career. Jostled and constrained by the crosses and inequalities of its prescribed path, hedged in by impassable barriers which fix limits to its movements, it yields groaning to its fate, and still travels forward seamed with the scars of many a conflict with opposing obstacles. All this while, although wasting, it is renewed by an unseen power,—it evaporates, but is not consumed. On its surface it bears the spoils which, during the progress of existence, it has made its own ; often weighty burdens devoid of beauty or value, at times precious

masses, sparkling with gems or with ore. Having at length attained its greatest width and extension, commanding admiration by its beauty and power, waste predominates over supply, the vital springs begin to fail; it stoops into an attitude of decrepitude—it drops the burdens, one by one, which it had borne so proudly aloft—its dissolution is inevitable. But as it is resolved into its elements, it takes all at once a new, and livelier, and disembarrassed form: from the wreck of its members it arises ‘another, yet the same’—a noble, full-bodied, arrowy stream, which leaps rejoicing over the obstacles which before had stayed its progress, and hastens through fertile valleys towards a freer existence, and a final union in the ocean with the boundless and the infinite.”

## § 17. AVALANCHES—SNOW-STORMS—FLOODS.

“The avalanche—the thunderbolt of snow.”—*Byron*.

Avalanches (Germ. Lawinen) are those accumulations of snow which precipitate themselves from the mountains, either by their own weight or by the loosening effects of the sun’s heat, into the valleys below, sweeping everything before them, and causing, at times, great destruction of life and property. The fearful crash which accompanies their descent is often heard at a distance of several leagues.

The natives of the Alps distinguish between several different kinds of avalanches. The *staub-lawinen* (dust avalanches) are formed of loose fresh-fallen snow, heaped up by the wind early in the winter, before it has begun to melt or combine together. Such a mass, when it reaches the edge of a cliff or declivity, tumbles from point to point, increasing in quantity as well as in impetus every instant, and spreading itself over a wide extent of surface. It descends with prodigious rapidity, and has been known to rush down a distance of 10 m. from the point whence it was first detached; not only descending one side of a valley, but also ascending the opposite hill by the velocity acquired in its fall, overwhelming and laying prostrate a whole forest of firs in its descent, and breaking down another forest, up the opposite side, so as to lay the heads of the trees up the hill in its ascent. *Slide-avalanches* (Schleich-lawine or Schlipfe) slip down from inclined surfaces often without disturbance of the surface, and it is only when they begin to roll over and bound that they become *schlag* or *grund-lawinen*.

Another kind of avalanche, the *Grund-lawinen*, occurs in spring, during the months of April and May, when the sun becomes powerful, and the snow thaws rapidly under its influence. They fall constantly from different parts of the mountains, at different hours in the day, accordingly as each part is reached by the sun: from the E. side between 10 and 12, from the S. side between 12 and 2, and later in the day from the W. and N. This species is more dangerous in its effects, from the snow being clammy and adhesive, as well as hard and compact. Any object buried by it can only be dug out by the most arduous labour. Men or cattle overwhelmed by the *staub-lawine* can extricate themselves by their own exertions; or, at any rate, from the snow being less compact, may breathe for some hours through the interstices. In the case of the *grund-lawine*, the sufferers are usually either crushed or suffocated, and are, at any rate, so entangled that they can only be rescued by the aid of others.



Such avalanches falling upon a mountain-stream, in a narrow gorge, are often hollowed out from beneath by the action of the water, until it has forced a passage under them; and they sometimes remain for the whole summer, serving as a bridge, over which men and cattle may pass.

The avalanches have usually a fixed time for descending, and an habitual channel down which they slide, which may be known by its being worn perfectly smooth, sometimes even appearing polished, and by the heap of *débris* at its base. The peasants, in some situations, await with impatience the fall of the regular avalanches, as a symptom of the spring having fairly set in, and of the danger being over. In some places the lower end of a glacier falls at long intervals of years and displays an avalanche on the hugest scale. Those near Randa, in the Val de Bagnes, and on the side of Altels, are examples.

Danger arises from avalanches either by their falling unexpectedly, while persons are traversing spots known to be exposed to them, or else (and this is the more fearful source of catastrophes) when an unusual accumulation of snow is raised by the wind, or when the severity of the season causes the avalanche to desert its usual bed, and the whole mass descends upon cultivated spots, houses, or even villages. There are certain valleys among the Alps in which scarcely any spot is totally exempt from the possible occurrence of such a calamity, though some are naturally more exposed than others. The Val Bedretto, in canton Tessin, the Meyenthal, in canton Uri, and many others, are thus dreadfully exposed. To guard as much as possible against accidents, very large and massive dykes of masonry, like the projecting bastions of a fortification, are, in such situations, built against the hill-side, behind churches, houses, and other buildings, with an angle pointing upwards, in order to break and turn aside the snow. In some valleys great care is bestowed on the preservation of the forests clothing their sides, as the best protection of the district below them from such calamities. These may truly be regarded as sacred groves; and no one is allowed to cut down timber within them, under pain of a legal penalty. Yet they not unfrequently show the inefficiency even of such protection against so fearful an engine of destruction. Whole forests are at times cut over and laid prostrate by the avalanche. The tallest stems, fit to make masts for a first-rate man-of-war, are snapped asunder like a bit of wax, and the barkless and branchless stumps and relics of the forest remain for years like a stubble-field to tell of what has happened.

A mournful catalogue of catastrophes, which have occurred in Switzerland, since the records of history, from avalanches, might be made out if necessary; but it will suffice to mention one or two instances.

In 1720 an avalanche killed, in Ober-Gestelen (Vallais), 84 men and 400 head of cattle, and destroyed 120 houses. The same year 40 individuals perished at Brieg, and 23 on the Great St. Bernard, from a similar cause.

In 1749 the village of Ruaras, in the Tavetsch Thal, was carried away by an avalanche; 100 men were overwhelmed by it, 60 of whom were dug out alive; and several of the houses, though removed to some distance from the original site, were so little shaken that persons sleeping within them were not awakened.

In 1800, after a snow-storm of three days' continuance, an enormous avalanche detached itself from the top of the precipice of Klucas, above

Trons, in the valley of the Vorder Rhein; it crossed the valley and destroyed a wood and some chalets on the opposite pasture of Zenim; recoiling, with the force it had acquired, to the side from which it had come, it did fresh mischief there, and so rebounding to and fro, at the fourth rush reached Trons, and buried many of its houses to the roof in snow.

In 1827 the greater part of the village of Biel, in the Upper Valais, was crushed beneath a tremendous avalanche, which ran down a ravine, nearly two leagues long, before it reached the village.

One of the most remarkable phenomena attending the avalanche is the blast of air which accompanies it, and which, like what is called the wind of a cannon-ball, extends its destructive influence to a considerable distance on each side of the actual line taken by the falling mass. It has all the effect of a blast of gunpowder: sometimes forest trees, growing near the sides of the channel down which the snow passes, are uprooted and laid prostrate, without having been touched by it. In this way the village of Randa, in the Visp-Thal, lost many of its houses by the blast of a mass of glacier, which fell in 1720. The E. spire of the convent of Dissentis was thrown down by the gust of an avalanche which fell more than a quarter of a mile off.

Travellers visiting the Alps between the months of June and October are little exposed to danger from avalanches, except immediately after a snow-storm; and, when compelled to start at such times, they should pay implicit obedience to the advice of the guides. It is a common saying, that there is risk of avalanches as long as the burden of snow continues on the boughs of the fir-trees, and while the naturally sharp angles of the distant mountains continue to look rounded.

It is different with those who travel from necessity in the spring, and before the annual avalanches have fallen. Muleteers, carriers, and such persons, use great caution in traversing exposed parts of the road, and with these they are well acquainted. They proceed in parties, in single file, at a little distance from one another, in order that if the snow should sweep one off, the others may be ready to render assistance. They proceed as fast as possible, carefully avoiding any noise, even speaking, and, it is said, will sometimes muffle the mules' bells, lest the slightest vibration communicated to the air should disengage the nicely-poised mass of snow above their heads. These manoeuvres are probably adopted to astonish travellers merely, for it is obvious that the lightest summer breeze must produce more effect than the loudest voice.

The avalanches, seen and heard by summer tourists on the sides of Mont Blanc and the Jungfrau, are of a different kind from those described above, being caused only by the rupture of a portion of the glaciers, which give way under the influence of a mid-day sun, and of certain winds, during the summer and autumn, when other avalanches, generally speaking, have ceased to fall. They differ, also, in this respect, that, for the most part, they do no harm, since they fall on uncultivable and uninhabited spots. It is more by the roar which accompanies them, which, awakening the echoes of the Alps, sounds very like thunder, than by the appearance which they present, which is simply that of a waterfall, that they realise what is usually expected of avalanches. Still they are worth seeing, and will much enhance the interest of a visit to the Wengern Alp, the Cramont (on the S. side of Mont Blanc), or the



borders of the Mer de Glace ; especially if the spectator will bear in mind the immense distance at which he is placed from the objects which he sees and hears, and will consider that, at each roar, whole tons of solid ice are broken off from the parent glacier, and in tumbling many hundred feet perhaps, are shattered to atoms and ground to powder.

The *Snow-storms*, *Tourmentes*, or *Guaen*, which occur on the Alps, are much dreaded by the chamois-hunter, the shepherd, and those most accustomed to traverse the High Alps : how much more formidable must they be to the inexperienced traveller ! They consist of furious and tempestuous winds, somewhat of the nature of a whirlwind, which occur on the exposed promontories, the summit-ridges, and elevated gorges of the Alps, either accompanied by snow, or filling the air with that recently fallen, while the flakes are still dry, tossing them about like powder or dust. In an instant the atmosphere is filled with snow ; earth, sky, mountain, abyss, and landmark of every kind, are obliterated from view, as though a curtain were let down on all sides of the wanderer. All traces of path, or of the footsteps of preceding travellers, are at once effaced, and the poles planted to mark the direction of the road are frequently overturned. In some places the gusts sweep the rock bare of snow, heaping it up in others, perhaps across the path, to a height of 20 ft. or more, barring all passage, and driving the wayfarer to despair. At every step he fears to plunge into an abyss, or sink overhead in the snow. Large parties of men and animals have been overwhelmed by the snow-wreaths on the St. Gothard, where they sometimes attain a height of 40 or 50 ft. These tempests are accompanied almost every year by loss of life ; and, though of less frequent occurrence in summer than in winter and spring, are one reason why it is dangerous for inexperienced travellers to attempt to cross remote and elevated passes without a guide.

The guides and persons residing on the mountain-passes, from the appearance of the sky, and other weather-signs known to them, can generally foresee the occurrence of *tourmentes*, and can tell when the fall of avalanches is to be apprehended.

*Floods.*—In most of the Swiss valleys traces are to be seen of terrible floods, which have from time to time poured down from the mountains, and devastated tracts of land more or less large. These floods usually occur at the melting of the snow in spring, but may happen at any time of year when, either from excessive rain, or from the too rapid melting of the snow, or from a dam of ice falling and then bursting, a mountain torrent swells beyond its usual proportions, and carries down stones, earth, huge rocks, and trees, sweeping everything before it till it reaches the valley, when it spreads out, often covering acres of fertile land with rubbish, and ruining the land for ever. There is hardly a year in which some part of Switzerland does not suffer from this cause. A flood in the autumn of 1852 converted the valley of the Rhone below Martigny into a lake, and covered hundreds of acres of land with rubbish, which in 1856 remained untouched and uncultivated. The flood on the same day carried away all the bridges but one in the valley of Chamouni ; whilst, above Sallanches, the river left its bed, and cut out a channel 30 or 40 ft. wide, and 6 or 8 ft. deep, through the fertile land and down to the bare rock. Great floods are described in Rte. 56 and Rte. 136. The upper part of the valley of the Rhône is now a desert in consequence of floods, and traces of great floods

may be seen in the valley of the Rhine and in the vale of Sarnen, and, in fact, in nearly every valley. Those who have once seen the recent effects of a flood will soon detect them continually, though the grass and bushes in a few years conceal the traces from those who do not know where to look for them.

§ 18. GOITRE AND CRETINISM.

“*Quis tumidum guttur miratur in Alpibus.*”—*Juv.*

It is a remarkable fact that, amidst some of the most magnificent scenery of the globe, where Nature seems to have put forth all her powers in exciting emotions of wonder and elevation in the mind, man appears, from a mysterious visitation of disease, in his most degraded and pitiable condition. Such, however, is the fact. It is in the grandest and most beautiful valleys of the Alps that the maladies of *goitre* and *cretinism* prevail.

*Goitre* is a swelling in the front of the neck (of the thyroid gland, or the parts adjoining), which increases with the growth of the individual, until, in some cases, it attains an enormous size, and becomes “a hideous wallet of flesh,” to use the words of Shakspeare, hanging pendulous down to the breast. It is not, however, attended with pain, and generally seems to be more unsightly to the spectator than inconvenient or hateful to the bearer; but there are instances in which its increase is so enormous that the individual, unable to support his burden, crawls along the ground under it. On the N. of the Alps women appear to be the principal sufferers from this complaint, and in the Valais scarcely a woman is free from it, and it is said that those who have no swelling are laughed at and called goose-necked. At Domo d’ Ossola it seems more prevalent among the men.

*Cretinism*, which occurs in the same localities as *goitre*, and evidently arises from the same cause, whatever it may be, is a more serious malady, inasmuch as it affects the mind. The cretin is an idiot—a melancholy spectacle—a creature who may almost be said to rank a step below a human being. There is a vacancy in his countenance; his head is disproportionately large; his limbs are stunted or crippled; he cannot articulate his words with distinctness; and there is scarcely any work which he is capable of executing. He spends his days basking in the sun, and from its warmth appears to derive great gratification. When a stranger appears, he becomes a clamorous and importunate beggar, assailing him with a ceaseless chattering; and the traveller is commonly glad to be rid of his hideous presence at the expense of a few sous. Cretins however are now either diminished in number or are confined, and the traveller is not pestered by them as he used to be. At times the disease has such an effect on the mind that the sufferer is unable to find his way home when within a few feet of his own door.

Various theories have been resorted to, to account for *goitre*: some have attributed it to the use of water derived from melting snow; others, to the habit of carrying heavy weights on the head; others, again, to filthy habits; while a fourth theory derives it from the nature of the soil, or the use of spring-water impregnated with calcareous matter.

As the *goitre* occurs in Derbyshire, Yorkshire (especially at Settle, in the

limestone district of Craven), Notts, Somerset, Surrey, Hants, &c., where no permanent snow exists, and no rivers spring from glaciers—also in Sumatra, and in parts of South America, where snow is unknown—and last, but not least, as no one ever drinks snow-water, which is always dirty, it is evident that the first cause assigned is not the true one; as for the second and third, they would equally tend to produce goitre in the London porters, and in the inhabitants of the purlieus of St. Giles's. If the limestone theory be true, all other rocks should be exempt from it, which is not the case, as far as our experience goes. Goitre is found only in certain valleys; nor, when it does occur, does it exist throughout the valley. It appears in one spot; higher up it is unknown, and in another situation, a mile or two distant, perhaps it is again prevalent. A curious example of this is afforded by the valley leading up to the Great St. Bernard. Goitre is unknown above Liddes; abounds at Verchères, 800 ft. lower down; and is almost universal at Orsières: had the disease depended upon the glacier-water, it would, of course, be more prevalent near to the glaciers, and in the upper part of the valley.

A careful attention to the circumstances accompanying its appearance will show that it is connected with the condition of the atmosphere, and is found in low, warm, and moist situations, at the bottom of valleys, where a stagnation of water occurs, and where the summer exhalations and autumnal fogs arising from it are not carried off by a free circulation of air;—that it is, in fact, one of the many injurious effects produced by malaria. It prevails in places where the valley is confined, and shut in, as it were—where a free draught is checked by the sides being clothed with wood, or by a sudden bend occurring in its direction—where, at the same time, the bottom is subject to the overflowings of a river, or to extensive artificial irrigation. The conjecture which derives the disease from breathing an atmosphere of this kind, not liable to be purified by fresh currents of air to carry off the vapours, is, perhaps, not undeserving of consideration and further investigation on the part of the learned.

Goitre usually occurs about the age of puberty. It becomes hereditary in a family, but children born and educated on spots distant from home, and in elevated situations, are often exempt from it. At Sion, in the Valais, which may be regarded as the head-quarters of goitre, children and even adults are often removed to the mountains from the low ground on the first symptoms of the malady, and the symptoms disappear where this is resorted to in time. Iodine has been applied with success as a remedy in some cases; but, as it is a dangerous remedy, the administration of it must be resorted to with the greatest caution.

The late Sir Astley Cooper, who in 1834 visited Martigny for the purpose of making observations upon goitres, considered them to be occasioned by the want of a due circulation of air; and he found the inhabitants of one side of a valley afflicted by them, while those on the other were quite free from them. (*L. S.* 1845.)

§ 19. HEIGHTS OF THE PRINCIPAL MOUNTAINS, LAKES, AND PASSES, ABOVE  
THE LEVEL OF THE SEA.

*Taken principally from 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers,' in English feet.*

MOUNTAINS.

	feet.		feet.
Gaurisankar or Deodunga (Nepal)	29,002	Schreckhorn .. .. .	13,394
Aconcagua (Chile) .. .. .	23,910	Bernina .. .. .	13,297
Mount St. Elias (North America)	17,850	Weiss Mies .. .. .	13,249
Pico de Teyde (Teneriffe) .. .. .	12,205	Aiguille du Géant .. .. .	13,101
<hr/>			
Gross Glockner (Tyrol and Carinthia) .. .. .	12,956	Grivola .. .. .	13,003
Mulhacen (Sierra Nevada) .. .. .	11,664	Nesthorn .. .. .	12,966
Marmolata (Italian Tyrol) (?)	11,500	Monte Viso .. .. .	12,586
Maladetta (Pyrenees) .. .. .	11,168	Monte delle Disgrazie .. .. .	12,060
Etna (Sicily) .. .. .	10,872	Blümlis Alp .. .. .	12,041
Ruska Poyano (Carpathians) .. .. .	9,912	Tödi .. .. .	11,883
Schneehätten (Norway) .. .. .	8,102	Roche Melon (Mont Cenis) .. .. .	11,590
Oräfa Jokull (Iceland) .. .. .	6,200	Titlis .. .. .	10,634
Ben Nevis (Scotland) .. .. .	4,406	Becca di Nona .. .. .	10,385
Snowdon (Wales) .. .. .	3,590	Görner Grat .. .. .	10,290
Curran Tubol (Ireland) .. .. .	3,405	Buet .. .. .	10,206
<hr/>			
Mont Blanc .. .. .	15,784	Torrenthorn .. .. .	9,876
Monte Rosa .. .. .	15,223	Eggischhorn .. .. .	9,657
Dom (Mischabelhörner) .. .. .	14,935	Sidelhorn .. .. .	9,457
Lyskamm .. .. .	14,889	Cramont .. .. .	9,040
Weisshorn .. .. .	14,804	Faulhorn .. .. .	8,812
Matterhorn .. .. .	14,705	Breven .. .. .	8,380
Dent Blanche .. .. .	14,322	Sentis .. .. .	8,223
Mont Combin (Graffeneire) .. .. .	14,134	Niesen .. .. .	7,765
Finsteraar Horn .. .. .	14,039	Pilatus .. .. .	7,315
Aletschhorn .. .. .	13,803	Flegère .. .. .	6,105
Jungfrau .. .. .	13,671	Rigi .. .. .	5,910
Mont Pelvoux .. .. .	13,468	Monte Generoso .. .. .	5,561
		Dole .. .. .	5,520
		Salève .. .. .	4,541
		Weissenstein .. .. .	4,230

LAKES.

Schwartzer See .. .. .	8,393	Bienne .. .. .	1,410
Dauben See .. .. .	7,244	Lucerne .. .. .	1,406
Silser .. .. .	6,000	Zug .. .. .	1,400
Joux .. .. .	3,210	Constance .. .. .	1,385
Egeri .. .. .	2,360	Zürich .. .. .	1,310
Lugern .. .. .	2,165	Orta .. .. .	1,150
Brienx .. .. .	1,781	Geneva .. .. .	1,230
Thun .. .. .	1,755	Lugano .. .. .	937
Sarnen .. .. .	1,715	Bourget .. .. .	762
Morat .. .. .	1,442	Como .. .. .	692
Wallenstadt .. .. .	1,420	Maggiore .. .. .	680
Nenchâtel .. .. .	1,420		

## PASSES.

				feet.					feet.
Adler Pass	..	..	..	12,461	Col de Balme	..	..	..	7,550
Weiss Thor	..	..	..	11,851	Gemmi	..	..	..	7,540
Triftjoch	..	..	..	11,601	Grimmel	..	..	..	7,530
Col d' Erin	..	..	..	11,408	Sanetsch	..	..	..	7,367
Col du Géant	..	..	..	11,146	Joch	..	..	..	7,340
St. Théodule Pass	..	..	..	10,899	Kinzig Culm	..	..	..	7,280
Collon	..	..	..	10,333	Ober Alp	..	..	..	7,140
Strahleck	..	..	..	9,750	Bernardin	..	..	..	7,010
Moro	..	..	..	9,640	Splügen	..	..	..	6,940
Col de Ferret	..	..	..	8,409	Cenis	..	..	..	6,825
Col de la Seigne	..	..	..	8,247	St. Gothard	..	..	..	6,808
St. Bernard	..	..	..	8,200	Surenen	..	..	..	6,720
Col du Bonhomme	..	..	..	8,195	Wengern Alp	..	..	..	6,690
Furca	..	..	..	8,150	Simplon	..	..	..	6,636
Rawyl	..	..	..	7,960	Scheideck, Hasli	..	..	..	6,480
Nufenen	..	..	..	7,950	Lukmanier	..	..	..	6,340
Panixer	..	..	..	7,940	Maloya	..	..	..	6,060
Bernina	..	..	..	7,695	Dent de Jaman	..	..	..	4,855
Albula	..	..	..	7,680	Brünig	..	..	..	3,668
Julier	..	..	..	7,625	Unter Hauenstein	..	..	..	2,260
Susten	..	..	..	7,560					

## ABBREVIATIONS, &c., EMPLOYED IN THE HANDBOOK.

The points of the compass (true, not magnetic) are marked by the letters N. S. E. W.

(*rt.*) right, (*l.*) left,—applied to the banks of a river. The right bank is that which lies on the right hand of a person whose back is turned towards the source, or to the quarter from which the current descends.

Distances are, as far as possible, reduced to English miles; when miles are mentioned, they may be understood to be English, and feet to be English feet.

Where there is a railway the distances at the head of the chapters are measured from the first station or terminus. On other roads the distances are measured from each place to the next place mentioned.

The names of Inns precede the description of every place (often in a parenthesis), because the first information needed by a traveller is where to lodge, and the best Inns are placed first.

Inns \* is a mark of commendation; B. Bed; Br. Breakfast; D. Dinner.

Instead of designating a town by the vague words "large" or "small," the amount of the population, according to the latest census, is almost invariably stated, as presenting a more exact scale of the importance and size of the place.

In order to avoid repetition, the Routes are preceded by a chapter of preliminary information; and to facilitate reference to it, each division or paragraph is separately numbered.

Each Route is numbered with Arabic figures, corresponding with the figures attached to the Route on the Map, which thus serves as an Index to the Book; at the same time that it presents a *tolerably* exact view of the great and minor roads of Switzerland, and of the course of public conveyances.

Eng. Ch. S., English Church Service on Sundays.

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## MAPS AND PLANS.

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 ——— Savoy and Piedmont .. .. . *at the end of the Book.*

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## ADDENDA.

Rte. 7.—Rheinfall, Schaffhausen. The Schweizer Hof (formerly H. Weber) is a truly comfortable house. Pension, 50 fr. per week, 180 fr. per month.



# SECTION I.

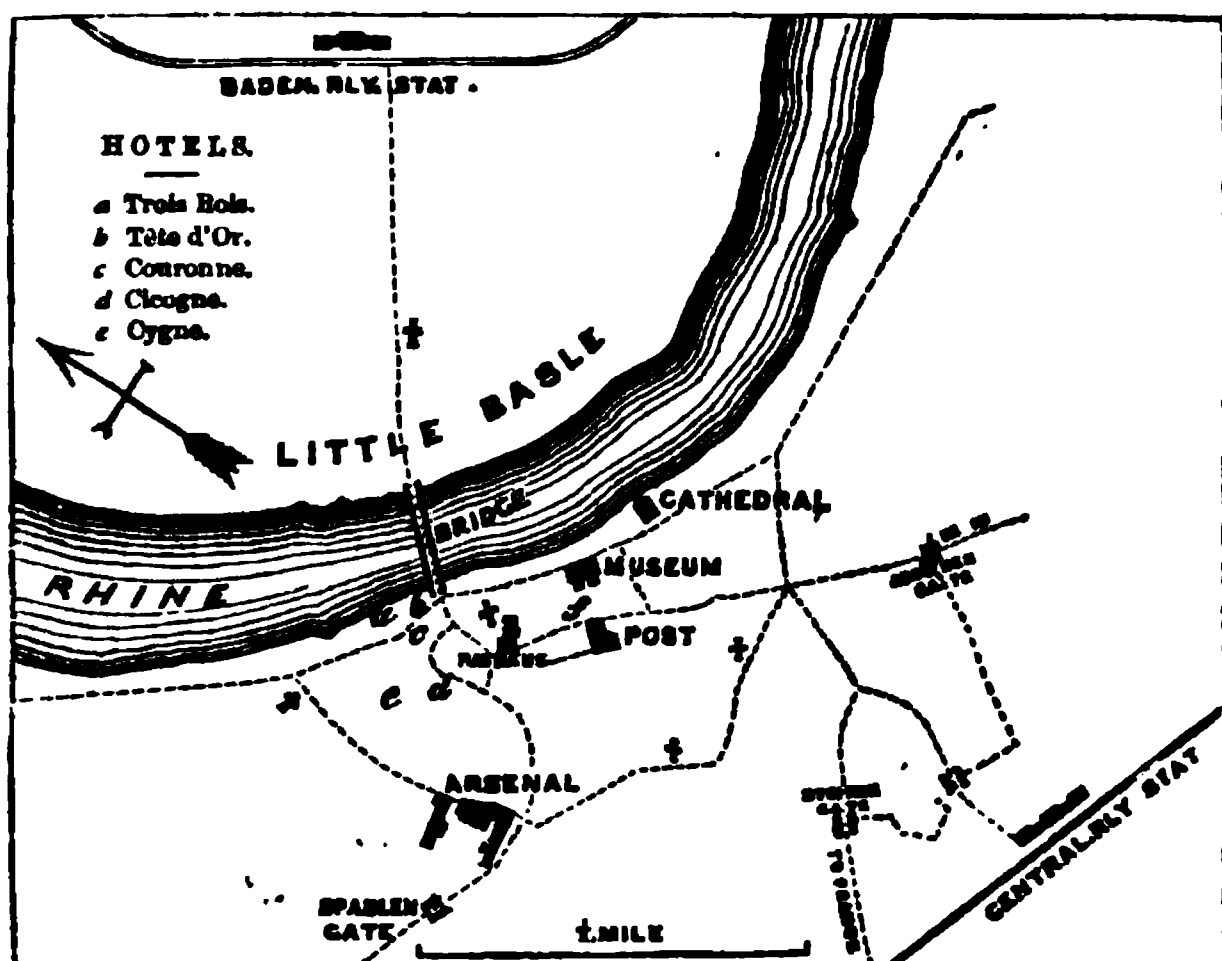
## S W I T Z E R L A N D.

### ROUTE 1.

**BASLE TO BERNE, BY THE VAL MOUTIERS (MÜNSTER THAL) AND BIENNE. RAIL.**

**BASLE** or **Bâle**. (Germ. Basel, Ital. Basilea.)—*Inns*: Trois Rois (Three Kings), an immense building, well situated on the Rhine, best, but dear, and defective attendance; Tête d'Or and Couronne, both overlooking the Rhine; Cigogne and Cygne, both in the town; \*Schweitzer Hof, near the Cent. Rly. Stat., well kept, civil people; Sauvage, commercial, good in its way; Basler Hof, near the opposite stat. of Baden Rly., is also a restaurant. There is a good café adjoining the Trois Rois.

Basle is divided by the Rhine into Great Basle on the l. bank and Little Basle on the rt. bank, connected by a wooden bridge, 680 ft. long, partly on stone piers. Great Basle is situated on high, sloping banks, overlooking the Rhine, which rushes past in a full broad flood of a clear, light green; and the view from it is bounded by the hills of the Black Forest on the one side, of the Jura on the other. Its appearance is still that of an old German town, with high roofs and large houses. Great Basle and Little Basle, with a few miles of territory, form the half-canton called Basle-town. The town contains 45,000 Inhab. (20,000



Roman Catholics); a large increase, for which it is indebted to its thriving trade and manufactory of ribands and paper; but its chief sources of prosperity arise from the residence of many rich merchants, bankers, and families of ancient descent, and from its position in an angle on the frontiers of France, Germany, and Switzerland, a few miles below the spot where the Rhine first becomes navigable. The chief transit-trade of Switzerland passes through it.

A large proportion of travellers entering Switzerland pass through Basle, and it is now the town whence most of the Swiss railways diverge. Though most travellers rush hurriedly through, there are few towns better worth a day's halt.

Starting from the *Trois Rois*, and turning to the l., we soon come to the bridge; continuing to the l., and ascending a narrow lane, in which is l. the very unpretending University, and rt. the *Musée* (see below), we reach

The *Cathedral*, or *Münster* (Sexton in a house opposite the W. door), on the high bank on the l. of the Rhine, above the bridge, distinguished by its 2 spires (about 220 ft. high), and by the deep-red colour of the sandstone of which it is built—a very picturesque and interesting edifice, though not of beautiful architecture. It was begun by the Empr. Henry II. in 1010, and consecrated 1019. The oldest part of the existing edifice, however, is probably of the 12th cent. It was mostly rebuilt in the beginning of the 15th century after an earthquake.

The building is a mixture of the Romanesque and Pointed styles. The W. front, with its towers, its equestrian statues of St. George and St. Martin, and other almost grotesque carvings, is picturesque and striking. The porch of St. Gallus in the N. transept (of the 13th centy.) is decorated with statues of Christ and St. Peter, and of the wise and foolish virgins. The interior was in 1857 restored, apparently with great care and fidelity,

and is very well worth a visit. The very large organ at the W. end was built, 1858. It is occasionally played from 6 to 7 P.M., adm. 1 fr. The pulpit (1324-1486) is of one piece of stone, and an elaborate piece of work. The choir, with its four remarkable columns, is raised to make room for the crypt. In the choir is the tomb of the Empress Anne (1281), and round the nave, on the N. side, are many other ancient tombs of noble and royal persons; also one or two quaint stone carvings let into the wall, particularly one of St. Vincent. Against a pillar opposite the *Font* (1465) is the *monument of Erasmus*. In the crypt are many other tombs, mostly of the aristocratic families of Basle, and also the coffins of six of the family of Baden Durlach. A staircase, leading out of the choir, conducts into a small apartment—the Chapter-house, or *Concilium's Saul*—in which some of the meetings of the Council of Basle, or rather of its committees, were held between 1431 and 1449. It is a low room, with 4 Gothic windows—distinguished not only in an historical point of view, but also as being quite unaltered since the day of the Council, except the ceiling, which has been restored. It is now a museum, and contains a number of plaster casts, some pieces of old furniture said to have belonged to Erasmus, and the six remaining fresco fragments of the original Dance of Death, painted on the walls of the Dominican Church in 1409, in remembrance of the plague. The Dance of Death has been attributed without cause to Holbein, since it existed at the time of the Council of Basle, at least 50 years before his birth. On the S. side of the Church are very extensive and picturesque \**Cloisters*—a succession of quadrangles and open halls—which, with the space they enclose, served for centuries as a burial-place, and are filled with interesting tombs; among which are the monuments of the 3 Reformers, *Oecolampadius* (Hausschein), *Grynæus*, and *Meyer*. The cloisters were constructed in the 14th centy., and extend to the

verge of the hill overlooking the river. They may have been the favourite resort of Erasmus. Bernouilli, a native of Basle, is buried in *St. Peter's Church*, which contains many monuments of its wealthy citizens. Oecolampadius first preached the Reformation in *St. Martin's Church*.

Behind the Minster is a *Terrace*, called *Die Pfalz*, 75 ft. above the river, planted with chesnut trees, and commanding a beautiful view over the Rhine, the town, and the Black Forest hills, among them the Blauen. Close to it is the Club called *Lesegesellschaft*—including a reading-room, where 80 papers are taken in.

Returning towards the bridge, we come to the *New Museum* (open Sundays 10–12, Wednesdays 2–4; at other times 1 fr. admittance), a handsome building, the most interesting contents of which are a collection of *Paintings and Drawings by the younger Holbein*—chiefly formed by his friend Boniface Amorbach, whose portrait is one of Holbein's masterpieces. *Obs.* the Passion of Christ, in 8 compartments, full of life, but harsh in colour; also 8 sepia drawings of the same subject;—a dead Christ, formerly in the Minster; Holbein's Wife and Children, with countenances full of grief and misery (1526); portraits of Erasmus, of Froben the printer, excellent—of a Mlle. von Offenburg, inscribed "*Lais Corinthiaca*," very good; the same lady as Venus with Cupid; two representations of a School, painted 1517, as a sign for a schoolmaster's door in the town of Basle. Among the *Drawings* are Holbein's own portrait—a work of the very highest excellence; heads of the family Meyer, sketched for the celebrated picture now in the Dresden Gallery, a beautiful pen and ink drawing; original sketch for the picture of the family of Sir Thomas More—the names of the different personages are written on their dresses; 5 sketches for the frescoes which formerly decorated the Rathhaus in Basle, with one or two fragments of the frescoes themselves; sketches in ink for glass windows, for

the sheaths of daggers, for the organ in the Minster; the Costumes of Basle; &c. &c. Holbein\* was born at Augsburg in 1494 or 95, and removed 1520 to Basle: his circumstances were by no means prosperous; he was even reduced to work as a house-painter. Erasmus, writing from Basle a letter of introduction for the painter to one of his friends, complains that "*hic frigent artes*," and the want of encouragement drove Holbein to seek his fortune in England, 1526, 31, and 38, where he met with high patronage, and d. 1543. His native city showed its esteem for his talents by granting him a salary of 50 gulden per annum. He became a citizen and member of the Painters' Guild, and resided off and on till 1538. Here are also portraits of Luther and his wife, by *L. Cranach*; of Zwingli; also some good pictures by old Dutch masters presented to the Museum.

Here also are deposited some antiquities, bronzes, fragments of pottery, coins, &c., from Augst, the site of the Roman *Augusta Rauracorum*, 7 miles from Basle (see Rte. 7). A silken embroidered banner, given by Pope Julius II. (1515) to the Bâlois; some old church plate—part of the Dom-Schatz—a silver cup of open work is the oldest piece (13th cent.); St. Anne with the Virgin and Child; and a relic-box with reliefs, 13th century, deserve notice.

The same building contains the *Public Library* of 80,000 volumes (4000 MSS.)—among them, the Acts of the Council of Basle, 3 vols., with chains attached to the binding, many very important MSS., of which there is a good catalogue, and a few of the books of Erasmus; also, a copy of his '*Praise of Folly*,' with illustrations by *Holbein*. There are autographs of Luther, Melancthon, Erasmus, and Zuinglius. Those who wish to see the library should apply early, as the librarian is usually absent in the afternoon.

The *University* of Basle, in a poor

\* See Kugler's '*Handbook of Painting*,' vol. II., German School.

building, nearly opposite to the Musée, founded 1460, was the first great seminary for the advancement of learning established in Switzerland: it enjoyed a high reputation under Erasmus, and numbered among its professors in more recent times the names of Euler and Bernouilli, the mathematicians, who were natives of Basle. Schönbein, the discoverer of gun-cotton and of ozone, is a professor.

Returning to the bridge, and then keeping along a new street to the l., we come to the *Fischmarkt*, a small square with a Gothic fountain. Taking another street from the opposite corner, we come to

! The *Rathhaus*, in the Market-place, of late Gothic architecture, founded 1508. The exterior is painted. The frieze displays the emblazoned shields of the original cantons. The armorial bearing of canton Basle is said to be meant to represent the case of a cross-bow. Ascending the old staircase rt. are some ancient and almost unaltered rooms now employed as offices, and l. is the Great Council-Room (*Stadt-Rath-Saal*) ornamented on the walls and roof with humorous reliefs carved in wood by *Mat. Giger* (1609). The painted glass of the windows—coats of arms of 12 of the Swiss cantons, with supporters. At the foot of the stairs is placed a statue of *Munatius Plancus*, the founder, according to tradition, of Basle and of the Roman colony of *Augst*.

Continuing along the same street (*Freie Strasse*) rt., is the Post Office, a very ancient building, formerly the custom-house, with a new front. Passing through it, and observing the back, we see opposite, up a courtyard, a picturesque old building, the *Schmiede Zunft*, or Smith's Hall; and in the same street is another old hall, the *Gartneren Zunft*; and in the town are many other old halls of the guilds or *Zunfts*, dating usually from the 16th cent., and almost unaltered. The interiors are well worth a visit from an antiquarian, and the attendants are glad to show them for a few sous.

Not very far off towards the W.

part of the town is the *Arsenal*, which contains a limited collection of ancient armour, of which the only curiosities are a suit of chain mail, once gilt, with plate mail beneath it, worn by Charles the Bold at the battle of Nancy; two Burgundian cannon, of iron bars bound round with hoops, and several suits of Burgundian and Armagnac armour.

A little way from the Arsenal are some very ancient corn stores, and beyond them the fountain called *Spahlenbrunnen*, the figure of a bagpiper, copied from a design of Holbein or Albert Dürer, and of elegant workmanship. Beyond this is the \**Spalenthor*, i. e. *St. Paulusthor* (1400), which retains its advanced work or *Barbican*, similar to those which formerly existed at York, and, with its double portcullis and two flanking towers, is particularly picturesque. The other gates and the ramparts have been levelled. *St. Elizabeth* is a modern Gothic church (1863).

*English Church service* in *St. Martin's* church twice on Sundays—it is given up in winter.

*Physician*, Dr. Jung.

Erasmus resided in the house *Zun Luft*, and Frobenius printed in it one of the first Bibles. The building called *Kirschgarten* was erected by the father of the distinguished African traveller, *Burckhardt*, who was born here.

A handsome *Hospital* has been built on the site of the palace of the Mark-graves of Baden.

Down to 1798 the clocks of Basle went an hour in advance of those in other places of Europe. This singular custom, according to tradition, arose from a conspiracy to deliver the town to an enemy at midnight having been defeated by the clock striking 1 instead of 12.

Since the Reformation, Basle has been regarded as the stronghold of Methodism in Switzerland. It possesses many well-endowed religious benevolent societies and institutions. The Protestant Missionary and Bible Society has its head-quarters here. Attached to it is the School for

Missionaries at *Crischona*, about 4 m. from Basle.

The spirit of trade has always gone, however, hand in hand with that of religion—and Basle has been called a city of usurers; 5 per cent. was styled a "Christian usance" (einen Christlichen Zins), and a proclamation of the magistrates (1682-84) denounced those who lent money at a discount of 4 or 3½ per cent., as "selfish, avaricious, and dangerous persons."

Like many other Swiss towns, Basle is much indebted to the liberality of its citizens, who continually bestow magnificent gifts and legacies for the public benefit. The Cathedral has been restored, and the Museum built and endowed by private means alone.

Basle was for many centuries an Imperial German town, governed by its bishops, under whom it appears to have flourished. It joined the Swiss confederation in 1501; and after severe struggles its bishops were expelled. The government then fell into the hands of the aristocratic burghers, whose authority was destroyed in 1798, partially restored in 1814, and again destroyed in 1848.

The dissensions which broke out soon after the Revolution of 1830 between the inhabitants of the town of Basle and those of the country, led to a civil war between the parties, and a bloody contest near *Liestal* occasioned the Swiss Diet, in 1832, to pass an act for the formal separation of the canton into two parts, called Basle Ville and Basle Campagne. Basle Ville, however, refused to submit, and attacked the Campagne with 1600 men, of whom 400 were left on the field of battle, Aug. 1833. The diet then occupied the whole canton, and a final separation was made. Basle Campagne consists of two-thirds of the territory of the whole canton, and has for its capital *Liestal*.

There is very good trout and grayling fishing in the *Birs*, and also in the *Wiese*, about 3 m. from Basle, on the rt. bank of the Rhine.

*Railways*.—CENTRAL STATION A.—Direct line to Paris by *Mulhouse* and *Troyes*. Express in 13 hrs.

40 min. (Paris time is 22 min. behind Basle time. Swiss money is not taken.) To *Strasburg* and *Paris*; to *Olten*, *Zurich*, *Lucerne*, and *Berne*. B.—BADEN terminus in *Klein Basel*, N. of the Bridge; to *Freiburg*, *Baden*, *Heidelberg*, *Frankfurt*; to *Schaffhausen*, the *Rhine Fall*, and *Constance*. From Basle to *Lyons*, in 1 day, by *Belfort*, *Besançon*, and *Dijon*.

*Environs*.—About 3 m. out of the town, just within the French frontier, is *Hünningen*, the great establishment for pisciculture. 21,600,000 impregnated eggs were distributed by its agencies during 1860-2. It is close to the stat. of *St. Louis*. At *St. Crischona*, conspicuously placed on a hill about 4 m. from Basle, is an interesting missionary establishment.

The salt-works of *Schweitzerhall* are 3 m. E. of the town. They were established by the Baron von *Glenck* of *Gotha*, who began a series of borings in 1821 to reach the bed which extends below the cantons of *Argovia*, *Schaffhausen*, *Berne*, and even *Vallais*. He was successful in 1835, and has a concession of the beds for 70 years on paying a tax of one-tenth of the raw produce, and supplying the canton at the rate of 2 fr. 70 c. the cwt. The total produce is 207,000 cwt.

*Basle to Berne by the Münster Thal.*

Post-road,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  posts, =  $81\frac{1}{2}$  Eng. m.

	Posts.	Eng. m.
Basle.		
Lauffen . . . .	$1\frac{1}{2}$	= 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Délémont . . . .	$1\frac{1}{4}$	= 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Münster . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$	= 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malleray . . . .	$\frac{1}{4}$	= 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sonceboz . . . .	$\frac{1}{4}$	= 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bienne . . . .	$1\frac{1}{2}$	= 10
Berne, Rail. . . .		20

This road will still be taken, at least as far as Bienne, by those who wish to see the beautiful Val de Moutiers. With a voiturier the journey to Bienne occupies 2 days, stopping the first night at one of the good inns of Malleray or Tavannes.

*Diligence* daily to Bienne.

The valley of the Birs, commonly called the *Val Moutiers* (*Münster Thal*, in Germ.), through which this excellent road passes, is one of the most romantic in the Jura. It consists of a series of narrow and rocky defiles, alternating with open basins, covered with black forests above, and verdant meadows below, enlivened by villages, mills, and forges. A road was originally carried through the Val Moutiers by the Romans, to keep up the communication between Aventicum (Rte. 45), the Helvetian capital, and Augst (Rte. 7), their great fortified outpost on the Rhine. As long as it runs through Basle Campagne, i. e. for 4 or 5 m., it passes dirty villages and mean houses.

At *St. Jacob*,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Basle, in the angle between two roads, a small Gothic cross has been erected, to commemorate the battle of *St. Jacob* (1444).

4 m. farther, near *Reinach*, on the opposite bank of the Birs, is another battle-field—that of *Dornach*—where the Swiss gained a victory over a much larger Austrian force in 1499, during the Suabian war. The

bone-house, near the Capuchin convent, is filled with skulls gathered from the field. In the church of the village Maupertuis the mathematician (d. 1759) is buried. A monument, set up to his memory by his friend Bernoulli, was destroyed by the curé of the village, who was in the habit of repairing his hearthstone when broken, with slabs from the churchyard. It has been replaced by a fresh monument at the expense of canton Soleure.

Beyond *Aesch* the road enters *l'Evêché*, that part of the canton Berne which anciently belonged to the Prince Bishop of Basle; the valley contracts, increasing in picturesque beauty as you advance. To l. a road by Passwang to Ballsthal (Rte. 2). The castles of *Angenstein* and *Zwingen* are passed before reaching

*Lauffen*,—a curious, old, and dirty walled village. Inn, Sonne.

*Soyhière* (Germ. *Saugern*)—a village prettily situated, with a small country Inn (*Croix Blanche*), tolerably good. Here is the division of languages: part of the inhabitants speak German, part French.

*Bellerive* no longer an *Hôtel*.

A contracted pass, the rocks of which on the rt. are surmounted by a convent, leads into the open basin of

*Délémont* (Delsberg) (Inn: Bear). [*Diligence* daily to Porrentruy (Pruntrut—Inn, Ours), passing round the base of Mount Terrible.] Fine view of the Jura and gorges of Moutiers. The bishop-princes of Basle had a palace here. It is unnecessary to pass through Délémont, as our road turns to the l., and, continuing by the side of the Birs, enters a defile higher, grander, and more wild than any that have preceded it. This is, properly speaking, the commencement of the Val Moutiers. Rocky precipices overhang the road, and black forests of fir cover the mountains above. In the midst of it are the iron furnaces and forges of les Rondes, and, farther on, of

*Courrendelin* (Germ. Rennendorf. Inn: Hirsch), supplied with ore in the



shape of small granulated red masses, varying from the size of a pea to that of a cherry, from the neighbouring mines. The rent by which the Jura has been cleft from top to bottom, so as to allow a passage for the Birs, exhibits marks of some great convulsion, by which the strata of limestone (Jura-kalk) have been thrown into a nearly vertical position, and appear like gigantic walls on each side of the road. The gorge terminates in another open basin, in the midst of which lies Moutiers. [Direct road to the Weissenstein and Soleure branches off beyond the gorge, about 1 m. before reaching]

*Moutiers Grandval*, or *Münster*—(Inn: Krone)—a village of 1250 Inhab., named from a very ancient *Minster* of St. Germanus on the height, founded in the 7th century, and now fast falling to ruin. [There is a good car-road from Moutiers to the *summit of the Weissenstein* (Rte. 3), a distance of 10 m. (2 hrs.), up-hill nearly the whole way, but fit for the cars of the country, one of which, drawn by 2 horses, may be hired to go and return for 20 fr. It passes Grandval (Grossau) and Günsbrunnen. Diligence daily to Olten in 6½ hrs., passing Günsbrunnen.]

At the upper end of the basin of Moutiers the road is conducted through another defile, equally grand, at the bottom of which the Birs foams and rushes, overhung by perpendicular cliffs and funereal firs. To this succeeds the little plain of Tavannes.

*Mulleray* (Lion d'Or, a good Inn; capital trout). Convenient sleeping-places on this journey either here or 3 m. further, at

*Tavannes* (or Dachsfielden = badger's field) 2523 ft. (Inns: Couronne; Croix). The valley to the E. of Court, called Chaluat (Tschaywo), is inhabited by the descendants of the Anabaptists, expelled from Berne in 1708-11. They are distinguished by their industry and simple manners: the young men wear

beards—they speak French.  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. above Tavannes is the source of the Birs; before reaching it our road quits the valley, mounting up a steep ascent, in the middle of which it passes under the singular archway in the solid rock, called

*Pierre Pertuis* (Pertusa = bored through). Probably a natural opening, enlarged by M. Durmius Paternus, Prefect of the Roman colony of Aventicum, as is stated by an inscription on the N. side:

NUMINI AUGUS  
tor VM — — —  
VIA fa CTA PER.M —  
DV rmi VM PATER NUM  
IL VIR UM. COL HELVET —

It stood on the boundary line separating the people of the Rauraci, who extended to Bâle, from the Sequani. The archway is about 40 ft. high and 10 or 12 thick. The pass was fortified by the Austrians in 1813. Here is the watershed, 2834 ft., dividing the streams of the Birs from those of the Suze.

*Sonceboz*—(Inn: Couronne, good)—a village in the Val St. Imier (Germ. Erguel), up which runs a good road to Chaux de Fonds (Rte. 50), and out of which another branches S. to Neuchâtel from Villaret. The *old* road to Bienne passes the forges of *Reuchonette*, 1942 ft., in the valley below, and descends the valley along the l. bank of the *Suze*, which forms several small cascades. The projecting rock of Rond Châtel was occupied in feudal times by a fort, and held by the powerful Bishops of Basle, to whom it gave the command of this pass. *The View* from the *old road* on the last slope of the Jura, over Bienne and its lake, with St. Peter's Isle, and the district watered by the Aar, Emme, and Zihl, backed in clear weather by the snowy range of the Alps, from Mont Blanc to the Jungfrau, is exceedingly beautiful. On the bare limestone slope of the Jura, close to



the road, are lying numbers of granite boulders. (See § 16.)

*Bienne* (German *Biel*) — *Inns* : \*Couronne ; H. du Jura ; Croix Blanche. Bienne, an industrious town. Pop. 6053, 660 Protestants, is prettily situated at the mouth of the valley of the Suze, at the foot of the Jura, here mantled with vines, and about a mile from the head of the lake of Bienne (Rte. 49). It is still surrounded by its ancient walls and watch-towers, and is approached by several shady avenues. The town anciently belonged to the Bishop of Basle, but the citizens, early imbued with the spirit of freedom, formed a perpetual alliance with Berne in 1352, for the defence of their liberties, in revenge for which the town was burnt by their liege lord. The Reformation further weakened the connection between the town and its ecclesiastical ruler, and at the beginning of the 17th century his authority became nominal.

[Those who have a taste for climbing may gratify it by ascending from hence the *Chasseral* (Gestler), one of the highest mountains of the Jura, 3616 ft. above the lake, and 4936 ft. above the sea, with the certainty of being rewarded with a magnificent view (Bernese Alps, rt. Mont Blanc, l. Pilatus and Rigi) if the weather be clear. There is a carriage-road as far as the village of Nodz, about 3 hrs.; thence a footpath, about 1 hr., to the top. You may descend to Neuville viâ Nodz.]

From Bienne, railway to *Neuchâtel* and *Yverdon* (Rte. 49), thence to *Lausanne* and to *Geneva*.

*Railways* to Basle, by Soleure and Olten.

*The direct Rly. from Bienne to Berne* (4 trains daily, 1½ to 2 hrs.) crosses at Brügg Stat. the Zihl, which flows out of the Lake of B., at (rt.) Nydau; Inn, Bär. It next crosses the Aar

by a lattice-bridge 800 ft. long, near Busswyl, and ascends its rt. bank to

*Lyss Stat.* [4 m. S. of this is *Aarberg* (Inn: Krone), a town of 864 Inhab. on a rocky promontory, nearly surrounded by the Aar, which, indeed, at high water, actually converts it into an island. The road enters and quits the town by 2 covered bridges. View from the cemetery.]

*Schüpfen Stat.*  
*Münchenbuchsee Stat.*

*Zollikofen Junct. Stat.* Here the rly. from Bienne (Rte. 1) falls in. A little N. of this lies

*Hofwyl*, long well known as the agricultural and educational institution of the late M. Fellenberg.

The surrounding district was little better than a bog when M. Fellenberg settled here in 1799; but he gradually brought it into cultivation; and an English agriculturist, who had been sent abroad to investigate the state of agriculture on the continent, reported that here alone he had seen really good ploughing.

The rly. leaves on rt. the picturesque peninsula of Enge, nearly surrounded by the Aar. At Tiefenau a lofty *Road-bridge* of 3 arches, a noble structure, has been thrown over the river. Nearly opposite the N. extremity of the lofty and picturesque promontory called Enge, lies *Reichenbach*, which belonged to Rudolph of Erlach, the hero of the battle of Laupen, murdered here, in his old age, by his son-in-law, Jost von Rudenz, with the very sword which he had wielded at that glorious victory. The assassin was pursued, as he fled from the scene of his crime, by the two bloodhounds of the aged warrior, who broke loose at their master's cries. They tracked the murderer's footsteps of their own accord, and after some hours returned with gore-stained lips, and nothing more was heard or known of Jost von

Rudenz. Rudolph was buried at the neighbouring church of Bremgarten, where a stone in the N. wall of the chancel marks the spot.

[From Délémont to Tavannas, a more circuitous, but not less fine route, may be taken, along the valley of the Sorne, through Bassecourt. It passes the ironworks of Undervelier (2 hrs. 40 m.), built in a narrow gorge; then ascends through the gorges of Pichoux, in 2 hrs. to Bellelay. This was formerly a convent of Premonstrate monks, built in 1136, on a bleak tableland (3500 ft.); now converted into an excellent brewery and a glass manufactory. Cheese, called *têtes de moines*, are exported. Hence 1 hr. down to Tavannes.]

A bridge of ingenious construction over the Aar carries the rly. on the top, and the carriage-road on a second story, into

BERNE Terminus. (Rte. 24.)

ROUTE 3.

BASLE TO SOLEURE AND BIENNE, BY RAILWAY.—ASCENT OF THE WEISSENSTEIN.

	Eng. m.
Basle.	
Liestal (Rail) . . . . .	8
Laufelfingen . . . . .	18
Olten . . . . .	23
Herzogenbuchsee . . . . .	40
Soleure . . . . .	49
Bienna . . . . .	63

As far as Aarburg the road is the same as in Rte. 4. Near Aarburg, which is a little beyond Olten, the road diverges and follows for some distance the rt. bank of the Aar: it then goes through a fertile but uninteresting country to

*Herzogenbuchsee, Junct. Stat.* (Railway Restaurant), a town of 4500 Inhab. Here our line leaves the Berne line (Rte. 5), and turns W.; crossing the Grosse Emme. 5 m. to the rt., and in front, is seen the hotel on the Weissenstein. The Aar is crossed shortly before reaching

SOLEURE STAT. (Germ. Solothurn)—(*Inns*: Couronne, good and moderate; Cerf; La Tour), 1407 ft.—the capital of the canton, is prettily situated on the Aar, at the foot of the Jura range, and has 5916 Inhab. (800 Protestants). In the middle of the 17th centy. it was surrounded by fortifications of great extent, which took 60 years to complete, and consumed vast sums of money. In 1835 the removal of these costly and useless works was decreed by the Great Council of the canton. It is on the whole a dull town with little trade and few manufactures,

except lenses and mathematical instruments.

At the end of the principal street, approached by a flight of steps, flanked by fountains representing Moses striking the rock, and Gideon wringing the dew from the fleece, stands the *Cathedral of St. Ursus* (a soldier of the Theban legion), a modern building, finished 1773, by an Italian, Pesoni, of Ancona; it is distinguished by its size, and on the whole handsome.

The *Clock Tower* (*Zeitglockenthurm*), in the market-place (a continuation of the same street), is stated by the guide-books to be a Roman work, while a German inscription upon it attributes its foundation to a period 500 years earlier than the birth of Christ; it may owe its origin to the Burgundian kings. It is square in form, and constructed of the most solid masonry, rough outside, originally without window or other opening, for 80 feet. If we are to believe the two Latin verses on the front of this building, Soleure is the most ancient city in N.W. Europe except Treves:

In Celtis nihil est Solodoro antiquius, unis  
Exceptis Trevis, quorum ego dicta soror.

The *Arsenal* (*Zeughaus*), a gable-fronted house (d. 1580), not far from the Cathedral, contains the most extensive and curious collection of ancient armour in Switzerland. Here are shown numerous standards, taken by the Swiss in their victories over the Burgundians and Austrians, at Sempach, Morat, Nancy (bearing the portrait of Charles the Bold—with St. George and the Dragon), and Grandson. Some of these, in order to preserve them, have been fastened to pieces of coarse canvas; the yellow flag with the Austrian eagle was brought from Dornach. Among 800 suits of armour are many French and Burgundian. There are a few suits of chain mail, and a great many of commoner sort worn by *Lanzknechts*. More than 100 heads are said to have

fallen under an *executioner's sword* here preserved. Several specimens of wall pieces, or long swivels, for the defence of a fortress, are curious. Some of the armour is for sale.

The *Museum*, in the *Waisenhaus*, close to the bridge over the Aar, contains the finest collection of Jura fossils in existence—15,000 specimens, chiefly from quarries near Soleure, which will be viewed with great interest by the geologist. There are nearly thirty specimens of fossil turtle, rarely found elsewhere, together with teeth and palates of fish, and numerous fragments of saurians, derived from a formation which is believed to correspond with the Portland stone of England. The jaws of mammalia are said to come from the same locality (?). A suite of specimens of the rocks of the Alps were collected in numerous journeys by Professor Hugi, to whom belongs the merit of forming and arranging this cabinet.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Basle lives here. The clergy are numerous and powerful, both in the town and canton. There are several convents at Soleure. The sisters of *St. Joseph's Nunnery*, outside the Berne gate, make artificial flowers, sweetmeats, and other articles, which they sell at the grating. Their pincushions are clumsy, and themselves not very interesting.

Soleure was long the head-quarters for enlisting Swiss recruits in the foreign service of France, Spain, the Pope, and Naples, in which countries a body-guard of Swiss was always maintained. The town of Soleure was an ancient Imperial city, but had been long allied to Berne, and in 1481 became, with its surrounding country, a Swiss canton. Until 1793 the government of Soleure was the closest and the worst of the Swiss governments. The old government was partially restored in 1814, but completely altered and rendered democratic in 1831.

*Thaddeus Kosciuszko*, the Pole, spent

the last years of his life here; his house, where he died, is near the Post-office, No. 10, Bieler-str. His entrails are interred in the churchyard of Zuchwyl, 1 m. E. of Soleure, under a monument inscribed "*Viscera Thaddei Kosciusko.*"

About 2 miles N.E. of Soleure, beyond the village of St. Nicholas, lies the *Hermitage of St. Verena*, at the end of a pretty valley, hemmed in by rocks of gneiss embowered in trees, and traversed by a sparkling rivulet. It is reached by paths, originally formed by the French émigrés, who, at the outbreak of the French Revolution, sought an asylum here. The valley abounds in caves and grottoes, partly natural, partly artificial, and at its further extremity, within a natural shelf of over-arching cliff, stands the little *Chapel of St. Verena*; behind the altar a small cave has been cut in the rock, and now contains a representation of the holy sepulchre. This saint, a pious maiden who accompanied the Theban legion, suffered severe temptation in this solitude, according to the legend, from the devil, who, on one occasion, was on the point of carrying her off, when she saved herself by clinging fast to the rock, where the hole made by her finger-nails still remains. On the way to the hermitage, near St. Nicholas, is the *Château of Waldegy*; its old-fashioned gardens, laid out in terraces, are worth notice.

[*The Weissenstein.*—The most interesting excursion in the neighbourhood of Soleure is that to the summit of the Weissenstein (3 hrs., 8 m.) (Whiterock, so named from its white cliffs of limestone), the mountain immediately behind the town. It is accessible to chars-à-banc, by a road somewhat steep, passing through the villages Langendorf and Oberdorf, behind which it is carried up the face of the mountains in a series of zig-zags. Pedestrians may find a short cut, and reach the top easily in 2½ hrs. (guide or porter 5 fr.; 3 more if he is detained for the night); they

may visit the *Hermitage of St. Verena* in their way to or fro.

An *Hotel and Bath-house* has been built at the expense of the town on the brow of the mountain, 3950 ft., and 2640 above the Aar at Soleure; about 30 beds; accommodation, homely, is good. Pension 6 fr. It is rented by the landlord of the *Couronne* at Soleure.

The dairy of the establishment is supplied by 60 cows, fed on the pasture on the summit of the mountains, so that milk and cream may be had here in perfection.

Many invalids take up their residence here during the summer months, on account of the fresh air, or for the "*cure de petit lait*" (goats' whey), &c., which is recommended in certain complaints.

The greater portion of visitors, however, resort hither merely on account of the view, remaining on the summit one night to enjoy the sunset and sunrise.

The Inn of the Weissenstein, and the still more elevated summit of the mountain, called Hasematte, 1½ hour's walk from the Inn, to the W. of it, command one of the finest *distant* prospects of the Alps which can be named. The great chain of snowy peaks, &c., here seen, spread out along the horizon, extends for a distance of 200 miles, from the Sentis on the E., to Mont Blanc in the S.W. Immediately in front rise the Jungfrau, Schreckhorn, and other giants of the Bernese chain. In the foreground, amidst a varied expanse of wooded hill and verdant vale, are the lakes of Morat, Neuchâtel, and Biemme, while the silvery Aar, on which stands the town of Soleure, winds like a snake at the foot of the mountain. See *Keller's* panorama at the inn.

Another road, quite practicable for a char-à-banc, descends the opposite (N.) side of the Weissenstein, into the Val Moutiers (Rte. 1.)

Quitting Soleure, the railroad runs

by the side of the Aar, and along the S. base of the Jura. The inn on the top of the Weissenstein continues long a conspicuous object.

On the rt. lie the Baths of *Grange* (*Grenchen*), a large building.

*Bözingen* (*Boujean*), on the river *Suze*, has ironworks of repute.

*Bienns Terminus* (*Rte. 1*).

1444, 1600 Swiss had the boldness to attack, and the courage to withstand for 10 hrs., a French army tenfold more numerous, commanded by the Dauphin, afterwards Louis XI. Only 10 of the Swiss escaped alive, the rest were left dead on the field, along with thrice their own number of foes, whom they had slain. This almost incredible exploit spread abroad through Europe the fame of Swiss valour; and Louis, the Dauphin, wisely seeing that it was better to gain them as friends than to oppose them as enemies, courted their alliance. The Swiss themselves refer to the battle of St. Jacob as the Thermopylæ of their history. The vineyards near the field produce a red wine, called *Schweitzer Blut* (Swiss blood). A little beyond this place the men of Basle were in 1833 drawn into an ambuscade by the men of Liestal and defeated with considerable slaughter. The rly. continues for some miles along the flat land of the Rhine valley, then leaving it, turns to the rt. up the valley of the little river *Ergolz*.

## ROUTE 4.

### BASLE TO LUCERNE, BY THE CENTRAL SWISS RAILWAY.

	Eng. m.
Liestal . . . . .	8
Laufelfingen . . . . .	18
Olten . . . . .	23
Sursee . . . . .	41
Lucerne . . . . .	56

The Central Swiss Railway starts from Basle (stat. near the *Æschen Thor*, a mile from the bridge), and traverses the Jura, through very beautiful scenery, to Olten; whence its branches diverge to Berne, Lucerne, Zürich, and Bienne. The works on this line were executed by the English engineer *Brassey*.

The rly., on quitting Basle, crosses the valley of the *Birs* on a lattice bridge of 3 arches, a little N. of the battlefield of *St. Jacob*, where, in

*Liestal Stat.* (*Inns* not good: *Falke*; *Schlüssel*) was always opposed to its connexion with Basle town, and was finally separated from Basle in 1833. It is a dirty, uninteresting town of 2170 Inhab., and since the separation has become the seat of government of Basle Campagne, which includes 53 parishes, with about 36,000 Inhab. In the Council-house (*Rathstube*) are curious paintings and sentences on the walls, and Charles the Bold's cup taken at Nancy.

After leaving Liestal the rly. enters a mountain valley, and follows the curves of the stream. The scenery is very pretty; in the bottom are bright green meadows, dotted with white houses; on the sides of the hills are fir and beech forests, and above, limestone cliffs may occasionally be seen.

*Sissach Stat.* The Rly. now ascends the valley by a gradient of 1 in 20,

and several side valleys are crossed on bridges, the line constantly rising until it looks down upon the village of

*Bakten Stat.* (*Inn*: Halber Mond), beyond which is a tunnel 900 ft. long; l. rise the picturesque ruins of the Castle of *Homburg*, the scenery becoming wilder and more picturesque, and the mountains higher.

*Laufelfingen Stat.* Close to this the tunnel under the Unter-Hauenstein is entered. It is 2700 yards long, and was 3 years in progress, and at one accident in 1857 50 men were buried alive. This pass has always been of great importance as an outlet for the merchandise of Switzerland, and as the most direct line of communication from W. Germany to Italy by the St. Gothard. The old road ascended to the head of the pass by a series of zigzags, descending in a similar manner on the other side, and commands a \* *View* of the great chain of the Alps, which is lost to the traveller by the rly. Those who would not miss the view will quit the train at Laufelfingen, walk over the mountain (*Inn* at the summit), and rejoin the rail at Olten.

On emerging from the tunnel we enter the pretty valley of *Trimplach*; green fields and white houses below, fir woods above, and limestone rocks and cliffs occasionally protruding, with a distant view of the Appenzell mountains. Soon afterwards we open into a wider valley, and, looking over Olten, in clear weather the first view of the *Bernese Alps* is obtained. The rly. here makes a curve of more than half a circle, and, crossing the river Aar, reaches

*Olten Junc. Stat.* (*Inns*: H. de la Gare, close to stat.; Thurm (Tour); Halb-mond), a town very prettily situated in a valley of the Jura, said to be the Roman *Ultimum*. Pop. 2340. Here are the ironworks of the

Central Rly. Frequent omnibuses to *Froburg*, a watering-place with whey baths.

*Railways.*—To Zürich, by Aarau and Baden, 2 hrs.; to Soleure and Bienne, 3 hrs.; to Berne, 2 hrs.; to Lucerne, 2 hrs. Passengers for Berne, Lucerne, or Bienne, change carriages. The rly. then goes through a pass between the hills and makes a circuit round.

*Aarburg Stat.* (*Inns*: Bär; Krone), a neat town of 1500 Inhab., almost entirely rebuilt since a conflagration in 1840. Its *Citadel* on the heights, although it has bomb-proof casemates hewn out of the rock, serves only as a military storehouse for the Swiss Confederation, and forms a picturesque object in the landscape. Outside the town is an extensive cotton factory, and a suspension wire bridge over the Aar.

Here the railway branches off to Berne (Rte. 5) and to Soleure (Rte. 3), though the carriages are changed at Olten.

The railroad leaves the Aar and enters a pretty valley, distinguished by its verdant pastures, and its substantial-looking houses, many of them with gardens, whose walls are often covered with thin plates of wood overlapping each other like fishes' scales. It is bordered by a varied outline of wooded heights. In front, the snowy Alps.

*Zofingen Stat.*—*Inns*: Cheval Blanc (Rössli), Ochs—a town with 3172 Inhab. Its *Library* contains autograph letters of Swiss reformers, and drawings by members of the Swiss Society of Artists. Near the Schützenhaus are some magnificent lime-trees, in whose branches 2 ball-rooms have been constructed. A fragment of the castle of Reiden, and a solitary tree perched on a rock beside it, become conspicuous before reaching

*Reiden Stat.* The Parsonage was

originally the house of the Knights of Malta.

*Dagmersellen Stat.* Inn: Lion, kept by A. Bühler, good and clean.

*Nebikon Stat.* Between here and *Wauwyl* a good view, rt. of the snow mts. of the Oberland. The Jungfrau is in the centre: the Mönch and Eiger to its l., the Altels to its rt.

*Wauwill Stat.*

*Sursee Stat.*—(*Inns*: Soleil; Hirsch; both bad and dear)—an old walled town, whose gate-towers still bear the double-headed eagle of Austria carved in stone. The *Rathhaus* is much dilapidated, but a good specimen of the German-Burgundian style. The general outline resembles the old Tolbooth of Edinburgh.—Sursee is 1 m. from the N. end of the Lake of Sempach, which has no pretensions to great beauty, but is pleasing, and highly interesting historically, from the *Battle of Sempach* (1386)—the second of those great and surprising victories by which Swiss independence was established. It was fought on the E. shore of the lake, behind the little town of Sempach, opposite which the lake comes into full view from our road. In 1805 a portion of the water of the lake was let off, in order to gain land along its banks; thus its extent is diminished, its surface lowered, and its form somewhat altered from what it was at the time of the battle. The rly. runs along its W. shore. Views of Pilatus and Rigi.

*Sempach Stat.* About 2 m. from the rly. stat. is the town of Sempach (*Inns*: Kreutz; Adler); and 2 m. farther is a small chapel, erected to commemorate the victory, on the spot where Leopold of Austria (son of the Duke of the same name who had been defeated 71 years before at Morgarten) lost his life. The names of those who fell, both Austrians and Swiss, were inscribed on the walls, which also bear a rude fresco repre-

sentation of the noble devotion of *Arnold of Winkelried*—

He of battle-martyrs chief!  
Who, to recall his daunted peers,  
For victory shaped an open space,  
By gath'ring, with a wide embrace,  
Into his single heart, a sheaf  
Of fatal Austrian spears.—*Wordsworth*.

He was a knight of Unterwalden, who, observing all the efforts of the Swiss to break the ranks of their enemies foiled by their long lances, exclaimed, "Protect my wife and children, and I will open a path to freedom." He then rushed forward, and gathering in his arms as many lances as he could grasp, buried them in his bosom. The confederates were enabled to take advantage of the gap thus formed in the mail-clad ranks of the foe, before the Austrian lancers had time to extricate their entangled weapons from his body. In order to oppose the Swiss, who fought on foot, many of the Austrian nobles had dismounted to form a serried phalanx; but the armour which rendered them almost invulnerable on horseback, and which, while they remained united and in close column, had formed so impenetrable a barrier to the attack of the Swiss, now that their ranks were broken, disabled them from coping with their light-armed and active foes. 600 nobles were slain, and more than 2000 common soldiers; while the entire force of the Swiss, who achieved this victory, is said not to have exceeded 1400 men. The conquerors founded masses for the souls of those who fell, friends as well as foes, and they are celebrated even now on the anniversary of the fight, which is a popular festival. Fine view of the Rigi and Pilatus from this part of the line.

At *Buttisholz*, a village about 3 m. W. of *Nothwyl Stat.*, and on the rt. of the road, may be seen a mound, called the *English barrow*, because it contains the bones of 3000 Free Companions, or Guglers, who had formerly served on the English side in the wars



between England and France. They were engaged by Enguerrand de Coucy, son-in-law of Edward III. of England, to conquer the Austrian dominion, to which De Coucy had some claim through his mother. The King of France furnished him with the requisite money, in order to liberate France from the ravages of these Free Companions, who, while pillaging in the Swiss cantons, were attacked in detail and destroyed by the Swiss peasants in 1376. The action which took place here was between the peasants of Entlibuch and a body of these Free Companions.

The approach to Lucerne is charming: on the l. rises the Rigi, in shape somewhat resembling a horse's back; on the rt. the Napf, the end of a mountain chain, stands out boldly; in front the Pilatus is distinguished by its serrated ridge.

7 m. *Emmenbrücke Stat.* After crossing the Emme, we reach the banks of the green Reuss, rushing out of the lake of Lucerne. Lucerne is surrounded on this side by a battle-mented wall, flanked at intervals by a number of tall watchtowers, descending to the margin of the river.

LUCERNE Junct. Station, on S. side of the Reuss (Rte. 16). Steamers for Waggis, Flüelen, &c., touch at it.

## ROUTE 5.

BASLE TO BERNE, BY THE CENTRAL SWISS RAILWAY.

	Eng. m.
Basle.	
Liestal . . . . .	8
Laufelfingen . . . . .	18
Olten . . . . .	23
Herzogenbuchsee . . . . .	40
Burgdorf . . . . .	50
Berne . . . . .	64

Trains in 3½ to 5 hrs.

The road as far as Aarburg is described in Rte. 4. At Aarburg, a little beyond Olten, the road leaves the Lucerne line and turns to the S.W., keeping for some distance along the l. bank of the Aar; it then traverses a fertile but dull country to

*Herzogenbuchsee Junct. Stat.* (*Inn: Sonne*), a town of some 4500 Inhab.

Near *Riedtwyl Stat.* a verdant valley is entered, its slopes covered with luxuriant wood.

*Burgdorf* (French *Berthoud*).—(*Inns: Bear; Buffet at the Stat.*),—a thriving town (3500 Inhab.) of large arcaded houses, and opulent public institutions pleasantly situated at the mouth of the fertile Emmen-thal (Rte. 22). In the old castle here Pestalozzi first established his school. Views of the Jungfrau, group of snow mts. from the ch., and a much more extensive one from the Lueg, 2 hrs. walk.

*Hindelbank Stat.*

In the church of *Hindelbank* are many monuments to the noble family of *Erlach*, and also the celebrated Monument of *Madame Langhans*, wife of the clergyman, who died in childbirth. It is by a sculptor named *Nahl*, and represents her with her child in her arms, bursting through the tomb at the sound of the last trumpet. Its merit, as a work of art, has been much exaggerated. The epitaph was written by *Haller*. This tomb is formed of sandstone, and is let into the pavement of the church.

Beyond *Zollikofen Junct. Stat.* is *Ruete*, rt., an agricultural institution.

At *Wylersfeld* (a fine view l. of the

Bernese Alps) the rly. from Thun (Rte. 25) falls in.

The *Castle* of Reichenbach on the neighbouring height belongs to the Erlach family.

The Aar is crossed by a lofty bridge, having a passage for the rail above, and the carriage-road below, leading to

BERNE STAT. (Rte. 24).

## ROUTE 6.

### BASLE TO ZÜRICH—RAILWAY.

	Eng. m.
Basle.	
Liestal . . . . .	8
Laufelfingen . . . . .	18
Olten . . . . .	23
Aarau . . . . .	31
Brugg . . . . .	42
Turgi Junction . . . . .	44
Baden . . . . .	47
Zürich . . . . .	62

About 4 hrs. Take the l. side of the carriage up to Brugg; the rt. after.

The road as far as Olten is described in Rte. 4. At the *Olten* junction the Zürich branch turns E., keeping on the rt. bank of the Aar, to

*Aarau—Inns*: Wilder Mann (Savage), comfortable; Löwe; Krone; Rössli—the chief town of the canton Argovie, which was first included in the Confederation in 1803, having previously formed a subject province of canton Berne, contains 4500 Inhab., and is situated on the rt. bank of the Aar: Simond called it, in 1817, “an odious little place;” but it has much improved and increased since then. It lies at the S. base of the Jura, here partly covered with vineyards. There are many extensive cotton-mills here.

The *Rathhaus*, in which the can-

tonal councils are held, has been rebuilt. In the *parish church* Protestant and Catholic services are performed alternately.

Henry Zschokke, the historian and novel-writer, resided here until his death, 1848, in a pretty villa on a hill on the l. bank of the Aar. When the armies of the French Revolution took possession of Switzerland in 1789, and destroyed its ancient form of government, Aarau was made for a short time capital of the Helvetian Republic.

There are several castles visible from the rly., the most conspicuous of which is that of *Wildegge*, the residence of Col. d’Effinger.

*Schintznach Stat.* 1½ m. from the *Baths of Schintznach*, also called *Habsburger Bad*, the most frequented watering-place in Switzerland. The principal buildings are the *Hotel* (*Grosser Gasthof*) and *Bath-house*, in a semicircular form. 500 persons frequently sit down to dinner together in the season at the *table-d’hôte*, 3 fr. There are 160 rooms and 160 baths, all exactly alike, lined with Dutch tiles. The resident physician and inspector is Dr. Zurkowski, Paris Acad. Med. The spring yields one of the strongest sulphurated waters known. Temperature 60° Fahr. The visitors are chiefly French. Season from May to September; prices reduced in winter. The waters are efficacious in diseases of the skin and mucous membrane, of the bones and respiratory organs, in rheumatism, and for wounds. Schintznach owes little to nature except its waters. Some pretty walks have been made near the houses, and winding paths, under the shade of trees, lead up the hill to Habsburg.

Among the many *excursions* in the neighbourhood may be mentioned the ascent of the *Gisli-Fluh*, over which there is a pleasant walk to Aarau.

*Brugg, or Bruck—Inn*: Das Rössli. Rly. to Waldshut (Rte. 7). An ancient possession of the House of Habsburg, containing 800 Inhab. The

exit and entrance to it are guarded by high conical roofed towers. The *Schwarze Thurm* (Black tower) is a Roman building of the age of the Lower Empire. Brugg is the birth-place of Zimmermann, physician of Frederick the Great, who wrote on Solitude.

The country around Brugg is interesting, both in a geographical and historical point of view. In the plain, a little below the town, three of the principal rivers of Switzerland which drain the N. slopes of the Alps, from the Grisons to the Jura, the Limmat, the Reuss, and the Aar, form a junction, and, united under the name of the Aar, throw themselves into the Rhine about 10 m. below Brugg, at a place called Coblenz.

Close upon this meeting of the waters, and on the triangular tongue of land between the Aar and Reuss, stood *Vindonissa*, the most important settlement of the Romans in Helvetia, as well as their strongest fortress on this frontier, on which they placed their chief dependence for maintaining this portion of their empire. Its works extended 12 m. from N. to S. Yet scarcely any portion of it now appears above ground; traces of an amphitheatre, a subterranean aqueduct, which conveyed water from Brauneggberg, 3 m. off, foundations of walls, broken pottery, inscriptions, and coins, have been turned up by the spade from time to time, and its name is preserved in that of the miserable little village of *Windisch*.

"Within the ancient walls of *Vindonissa*, the castle of Habsburg, the abbey of *Königsfeld*, and the town of *Bruck* have successively arisen. The philosophic traveller may compare the monuments of Roman conquests, of feudal or Austrian tyranny, of monkish superstition, and of industrious freedom. If he be truly a philosopher, he will applaud the merit and happiness of his own time."—*Gibbon*.

1½ m. E. of Brugg stands the *Abbey of Königsfelden* (King's field), founded, 1310, by the Empress Elizabeth, and Agnes Queen of Hungary, on the spot where, two years before, their

husband and father, the Emperor Albert, was assassinated. The convent, a group of gloomy piles, was suppressed in 1528; part of it is now converted into a farm-house, an hospital, and a mad-house; the rest is falling to decay. The dilapidated *Church* contains some very fine painted glass, and numerous pavement tombs, with sculptured coats of arms of a long train of nobles who fell in the battle of *Sempach*. The large vaults beneath were the burial-place of many members of the Austrian family, including Agnes, and Leopold, who fell at *Sempach*, but they were removed hence into the Austrian dominions in 1770. According to tradition the high altar stands on the spot where Albert fell. He was about to invade Switzerland with his army, had crossed the ferry of the Reuss in a small boat, leaving his suite on the opposite bank, and attended only by the four conspirators. The chief of them, John of Suabia, his nephew—who had been instigated to slay him by the wrong he endured in being kept out of his paternal inheritance by his uncle—first struck him in the throat with his lance. Balm ran him through with his sword, and Walter von *Essenbach* cleft his skull with a felling-stroke. Wart, the fourth, took no share in the murder. Although the deed was so openly done, in broad day, almost under the walls of the Imperial Castle of Habsburg, and in sight of a large retinue of armed attendants, the murderers were able to escape in different directions; and the imperial retainers took to flight, leaving their dying master to breathe his last in the arms of a poor peasant who happened to pass.

A peasant-girl that royal head upon her bosom laid,  
And, shrinking not for woman's dread, the face of death survey'd:  
Alone she sate. From hill and wood low sunk the mournful sun;  
Fast gushed the fount of noble blood. Treason his worst had done.  
With her long hair she vainly pressed the wounds to staunch their tide;  
Unknown, on that meek, humble breast, imperial Albert died.—*Mrs. Hemans*.

A direful vengeance was wreaked by the children of the murdered

monarch; not, however, upon the murderers—for, with the exception of Wart, the only one who did not raise his hand against him, they all escaped—but upon their families, relations, and friends; and 1000 victims are believed to have expiated, with their lives, a crime of which they were totally innocent. Queen Agnes gratified her spirit of vengeance with the sight of these horrid executions, exclaiming, while 63 unfortunate men were butchered before her, “Now I bathe in May-dew!” She ended her days in the convent of Königsfelden, which she had founded and endowed with the confiscated property of those whom she had slaughtered. Penance, prayer, and almsgiving could avail but little to stifle the qualms of a guilty conscience for the bloody deeds which she had committed; and it is recorded that a holy hermit, to whom she had applied for absolution, replied to her, “Woman! God is not to be served with bloody hands, nor by the slaughter of innocent persons, nor by convents built with the plunder of orphans and widows, but by mercy and forgiveness of injuries.” The building in which she passed 50 years of her life was destroyed; that which is shown as her cell is not so in reality. There was a grove of oaks on the spot at the time the murder was committed. The tree under which Albert fell was converted into a chest to hold Agnes’ jewels, and is still preserved.

About 2 m. from Brugg, on a wooded height called Wülpelsberg, stand the remains of the *Castle of Habsburg*, or Habichtsburg (Hawk’s Castle), the cradle of the House of Austria, built by Count Radbod of Altenburg, 1020, an ancestor of the family. A mere fragment of the original building now exists. The tall, square keep of rough stones has walls 8 ft. thick; and beneath it a dungeon, to be entered only by a trap-door in the floor above. The view from it is picturesque and interesting; the eye ranges along the course of the three rivers, over the site of the Roman Vindonissa and Königsfelden, the ~~sepulchre~~ of

imperial Albert: on the S. rises the ruined castle of Braunegg, which belonged to the sons of the tyrant Gessler; and below it Birr, where Pestalozzi, the teacher, died, and is buried. It takes in at a single glance the whole Swiss patrimony of the Habsburgs—an estate far more limited than that of many a British peer—from which Rudolph was called to wield the sceptre of Charlemagne. The House of Austria were deprived of their Swiss territories by papal ban, 150 years after Rudolph’s elevation: but it is believed that the ruin has again become the property of the Austrian Emperor by purchase.

On quitting Brugg, the rly. leaves the Aar. It traverses Oderdorf (near which are scanty remains of a Roman amphitheatre), and crosses the river Reuss to the

*Turgi Junction Stat.*, where the branch from Waldshut (Rte. 7) joins the main line from Olten to Zürich. (A large cotton manufacture here.) Since this line was opened, travellers from Mannheim or Heidelberg may reach Zürich by the express train in 9 hrs., without changing carriages from Klein Basel.

From hence the rly. keeps the l. bank of the Limmat to

*Baden Stat. (Inn: Waage (Balances):* the best hotels are at the baths, more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the town).—This ancient walled town, of 1800 Inhab., is squeezed within a narrow defile on the l. bank of the Limmat, here crossed by a wooden bridge. The ruins of the *Castle* overlook it from a rocky eminence, now tun-nelled through by the Zürich Railway, well worth ascending for the singular view. It was anciently the residence and stronghold of the Austrian princes. Here were planned the expeditions against the Swiss, which were frustrated at Morgarten and Sempach. At length when the Pope, in 1415, excommunicated the Archduke Frederick, the Swiss took it and burnt it. In the *Rathhaus* of Baden the preliminaries preceding the treaty of peace which terminated the war of the Spanish Succession, were arranged by Prince Eugene on the part of

Austria, and by Marshal Villars for France, in 1712.

Baden im Argau, like its namesakes in Baden and Austria, was frequented on account of its mineral waters by the Romans, who called it *Therma Helvetica*. It was sacked and destroyed by Cæcina. Tacitus mentions it as "in modum municipii extructus locus, amœno salubrium aquarum usu frequens."—*Hist.* i. 67.

The *Baths* (*Inns*: Stadthof, best; Limmathof; Schiff), on the borders of the Limmat,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile below or N. of the town, are resorted to between June and Sept. by numerous visitors, 15,000 in 1861, chiefly French and Swiss. The waters are warm and sulphureous, having a temperature of 118° Fahr. There are 19 springs and a copious outflow, and are good for rheumatism, &c.

The Swiss Baden, though not equal in beauty to its namesakes in other parts of Europe, has considerable attractions in the country around it. The rocky heights on each side of the river—the one surmounted by the ruined castle, the other partly covered by vineyards—form a portal through which the Limmat pours. Before this gorge was formed, Baden and the country above it must have been a vast lake.

Agreeable walks are made for invalids by the side of the Limmat, and many pleasant excursions may be made in the country around—the most interesting being that described above, to Schintznach (8 miles), by Windisch, Königsfelden, and Habsburg.

Roman relics are constantly discovered in this district. Gambling must have been a prevailing vice among the visitors to the baths, and the Roman Legions stationed here, if it is true that a neighbouring field has obtained the name of *Dice Meadow* (*Wurfel Wiese*), from the quantity of dice dug up in it.

The *Railroad* passes by a tunnel 800 feet long, under the Stein or Castle hill, and runs along the l. bank of the Limmat. It passes Cestaden Stat. and Schlieren Stat. The Cistercian

convent of Wettingen, a vast building with many courts, gardens, &c., surrounded by a wall, is situated in an angle formed by a bend of the river on its rt. bank. It was suppressed by the council of the canton (Aarau), 1841, and is now a seminary. Its church, founded in 1227, contains tombs of some early counts of Habsburg and Kyburg, the stone coffin in which the body of the Emperor Albert was interred for 14 months after his murder, painted glass, carved stalls, &c. The railway makes a great bend here.

*Dielikon*. The stately building l. on the height surrounded by vineyards is a Kelterhaus (wine-press) of the convent of Wettingen. Near this village the French, under Massena, crossed the river, Sept. 24, 1799—a masterly movement, which led to the defeat of the Russians and the capture of Zürich.

The landscape becomes very animated in the neighbourhood of Zürich. The distant Alps on the rt. and the long ridge of the Albis, terminating towards Zürich in the Uetliberg, crowned with its *Inn*, are conspicuous objects. The Sihl river is crossed.

ZÜRICH STAT. In Rte. 9. Station, on the former Schützenplatz.

ROUTE 7.

BASLE TO SCHAFFHAUSEN, THE RHINE FALLS, AND CONSTANCE, BY WALDSHUT.—RAIL.

	Eng. m.
Basle.	
Rheinfelden . . . . .	10
Säckingen . . . . .	20
Lauffenburg . . . . .	26
Waldshut . . . . .	35
Schaffhausen . . . . .	64

*Terminus* at the Baden Stat., in Klein Basel.

This railway runs on the rt. or Baden side of the Rhine, in continuation of the Baden Railway, and was extended 1863 to Schaffhausen and Constance.

[On the opposite side of the Rhine, a little before Rheinfelden, is

*Augst*, which stands on each side of the small river Ergolz, on the site of the Roman city *Augusta Rauracorum*, founded by Munatius Plancus, in the reign of Augustus. Its existence on this spot is sufficiently proved by the quantity of Roman remains that have been, and still are, discovered, wherever the ground is turned up. There are indications of an amphitheatre, now converted into pleasure grounds; but the remains of buildings are very slight. The relics which have been found are curious, though the proprietor of the ground has arranged them in the style of a tea-garden. There are several columns, inscriptions, tombs, and fragments of statues, all of the Lower Empire; but which the antiquary would do well to examine, as they are inedited.]

*Grenzach Stat.* Excellent wine grown here. The line approaches the Rhine, breaking and foaming over rocks near

*Rheinfelden Stat.* (*Inn*: Krone, Post, saltwater baths), a town of 1500 Inhab., surrounded by walls and closed at either end by gates in the true Swiss fashion. It stands on the l. bank of the Rhine, here crossed by a covered wooden bridge, above and below which the rocks in the river bed form considerable rapids and falls. The town is partly built of fragments of Roman masonry brought from the ruins of *Augst*. Opposite the inn is a handsome fountain, a pillar of bronze, supporting a standardbearer with the arms of the town. Duke Bernard of Saxe Weimar gained a battle here in the Thirty Years' War (1638) in which the Duc de Rohan perished.

The success of Baron v. Glenck at Schweitzerhall (*Rte.* 1) induced several companies to follow his example in boring for salt. Brine was reached in 1845 at Rheinfelden at a depth of 351 ft., and below it was a bed of rock salt 80 feet thick. At Ryburg, 4 m. to the E., the salt is first reached 500 ft. below the surface. At both places the brine that is pumped up is almost saturated, containing 26 per

cent. of salt. Their joint produce is 124,000 cwt. The companies are bound by similar conditions to those described in *Rte.* 1.

*Sächingen Stat.* has a fine *Abbey Ch.* with 2 towers.

*Klein Lauffenburg Stat.* connected by a wooden bridge with

*Lauffenburg* (*Inn*: Adler (Aigle, clean, rather dear), a town of 900 Inhab. on the l. bank of the Rhine. The river flows in a deep-sunk channel, rugged with rocks which fret its bright blue-green waters; it is here interrupted by more rapids and falls, in German called *Lauffen*, whence the name of the place. Small boats can only pass them by unloading their cargoes above, and being let down gradually by stout ropes, held by men stationed on the bank. It was in descending these rapids in this manner that a young English nobleman, Lord Montague, the last male of his line, was drowned—on the same day that his family mansion, Cowdray, in Sussex, was burnt to the ground. The accident is commonly, but erroneously, referred to the Rhine fall at Schaffhausen. There is a productive salmon-fishery here.

The Fall is not seen from the stat.

*Waldshut Junct. Stat.* (*Inns*: Rebstock (Vine), clean and reasonable; *Badischer Hof*); a walled town of 1000 Inhab., on the skirts of the Black Forest. [The Swiss *Junct. Rly.* crosses the Rhine and ascends the rt. bank of the Aar to

*Turgi Junct. Stat.*, near a small village called Coblenz (*Confluentia*): the Rhine is here joined by the Aar.]

The Schaffhausen railway leaves the Rhine and proceeds along a tolerably level but dull and uninteresting country, enlivened only by occasional distant views of the mountains.

*Thiengen Stat.*

At *Erzingen Stat.* the Baden territory is quitted, and soon afterwards canton Schaffhausen is entered.

*Neuhausen Stat.* (on the rt. bank) —*Inns*: Schweizer Hof, very good; pleasant gardens extending to the Rhine, and fine view; the obliging



landlord has acquired the exclusive right of fishing: *pension*, 40 fr. a week, 150 fr. a month. Bellevue, H. and *pension*, very good. [*Inns on the l. bank, opposite Neuhausen — H. du Château de Laufen; omnibuses to Dachsen Stat. H. Witzig, good and cheap, at that Stat.: no view.*] Rte. 9.

#### FALLS OF THE RHINE.

Whether the traveller stop at Neuhausen Stat. or at Dachsen Stat, he will find the utmost facilities for viewing the Falls from all points. He may cross



the stone bridge above the Falls, and return by Ferry below the Falls. Our advice is to approach them first from Laufen Castle on the l. bank. Thus nothing will be seen of them until they are at once presented in their most magnificent point of view.

It will take at least 2 hours to see the falls properly.

The garden of the *Castle of Laufen* is situated on a high rock overlooking the fall; a charge of 1 fr. is made for each person admitted to the castle and the walks. Here is also a print-room, where views of the Rhine, &c., are for sale, also maps and guide-books. There are several platforms and kiosks in the gardens, from which views of the falls are obtained, and several flights of very rude stone and wooden steps conduct to a project-

ing stage, or rude balcony, of stout timbers, the *Fischetz*, thrown out, like the bowsprit of a ship, from the vertical cliff to within a few feet of the fall. It actually overhangs the roaring shoot, and, though perfectly secure, trembles under the impulse of the water. Here, covered with the spray, the traveller may enjoy the full grandeur of this *hell of waters*; and it is only by this close proximity, amidst the tremendous roar and the uninterrupted rush of the river, passing with the swiftness of an arrow above his head and beneath his feet, that a true notion can be formed of the stupendous nature of this cataract. The best time for seeing the fall is about 8 in the morning, when the iris floats within the spray (provided the sun shines), and by moonlight. The river is usually most full in the month of July. The Rhine, above the fall, is about 300 feet broad; the height of the fall varies from 60 feet on one side to 45 on the other; but, including the rapids above, the entire descent is not less than 100 feet. Two isolated pillars of rock, standing in the middle of the stream, divide the fall into 3 shoots. Seen from behind, these pinnacles appear eaten away by the constant friction of the water, and tottering to their fall; yet, though the rock is soft, the waste of it within the memory of man has not been perceptible.

The river, after its leap, forms a large semicircular bay, as it were to rest itself; the sides of which are perpetually chafed by the heaving billows. Here, in front of the fall, on the rt. bank, stands the *Castle of Wörth*, a square tower, containing a camera obscura, which shows the fall in another and a very singular point of view. From this tower to the foot of the rock on which the castle of Laufen stands, boats ply, to ferry visitors across, charging  $\frac{1}{2}$  fr. each. The boats are much tossed about in their passage, but make it without risk. The boatmen below the falls will land adventurous travellers on the central rock at 4 fr. each; and those who have a steady head may ascend it, and view the fall from this



vantage-ground. These boatmen appear to enjoy a monopoly, and are insolent.

Arrangements are made for illuminating the falls by night.

The discharge of water at the Falls is about 80,000 cub. ft. per second. The broken nature of its bed is such that, during the low waters in the early spring of 1848 and 1858, men were able to cross it by leaping from rock to rock. An iron monument commemorates the event.

On the rocks on the rt. bank are some iron-works, the hammers of which are worked by the fall. The buildings and smoky chimneys materially injure the beauty of the falls. Immediately above the falls is the stone bridge of the Schaffhausen and Zürich Railway, which passes near the Castle of Laufen and the falls. (Rte. 9.)

It is a fact worth noticing that no classic or ancient author mentions the Rheinfall.

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SCHAFFHAUSEN STAT. at the Oberthor, near the Promenade. (*Inns*: in the town—Couronne, fair, not far from the station; Post (Schwam); Lion. On the S. side of the Rhine,—Cerf (Hirsch), clean, cheap. For hotels at the Falls see last page.)

Schaffhausen (8700 Inhab., Prot.) stands on the right bank of the Rhine, just above the spot where the rapids and falls commence, which render that river unnavigable as far as Basle. It was originally a landing-place and magazine, at which the portage of goods began and ended, and owes its origin and name to the boat or *skiff houses*, here erected. It is distinguished above almost every other town in Switzerland by the antique architecture of its houses, whose fronts and projecting oriel windows are decorated with carvings and stucco-work. Many of them were originally entirely covered externally with fresco paintings, but of these there are now few examples: the house called Zum Ritter, nearly op-

posite the Couronne, is one of the most remarkable of those that remain. The houses or *halls* of the ancient *Guilds*, or *Zünfte*, are worthy of attention on account of their quaint inscriptions and allusive ornaments. The wall and turreted gateways of the town have been preserved, and furnish very picturesque subjects for the pencil. There are a few manufactures of iron, silk, and cotton. The water power is used to set in motion *turbines* for turning factory machinery.

It is almost exclusively on account of its vicinity to the celebrated Falls of the Rhine that Schaffhausen is visited. It has little resort, except from the passage of travellers, it being one of the portals of Switzerland, and there is little within the town to deserve notice. On the height above it rises the *Castle* called *Munoth* (Munitio?). Its tower has walls of great thickness (18 feet), built in 1564. It is provided with bomb-proof casemates, and is a curious specimen of the transition style of fortification. There are subterranean passages under it. The whole is shown (1 fr. for a small party).

Frederick Duke of Tyrol (Empty-purse) conveyed away Pope John XXIII. from the justice of the Council of Constance, 1415, and kept him safe in the castle of Schaffhausen, for which he was placed under the ban of the Empire.

*The Minster*—originally the Abbey of All Saints—was founded 1052. It is in the Romanesque style, remarkable for the solidity of its construction, and as exhibiting an unaltered specimen of that style. The arches of the nave are supported by single circular columns, and those in the centre of the transept by square piers of the most massive kind. The cloister attached to the church contains a profusion of monuments of the magistrates and patrician families, but everything is covered with plaster and whitewash.

The public walks (*Fäsistaub*) outside the town on the W. side command fine views of the Rhine, &c.

There are baths close to the Rhine and a swimming-bath in the river.

The *Town Library* contains the collection of books of the Swiss historian Müller, who was born here; also a *Museum* of antiquities, painted glass, church plate, carvings, &c., from old convents.

*Railways* to Winterthur and Zürich, to Basle, and to Constance.

*Diligences* to Donaueschingen and Freiburg (on the road to Strasburg and Frankfurt).

*Omnibus* to the Falls (1 fr.).

The Falls of the Rhine are about 3 miles below Schaffhausen. They are easily accessible by the 2 rlys. N. and S. of the river, Neuhausen Stat. on the N., and the Dachsen Stat. of the Rly. to Zürich, being but 10 min. from the falls. There are hotels on both banks, better and more convenient than those of Schaffhausen.

## ROUTE 8.

### SCHAFFHAUSEN TO CONSTANCE—RAIL— LAKE OF CONSTANCE.

There are 2 routes, both recommendable. A. along N. bank of Rhine: rly. 5 trains daily, 1½ hr. B. road along S. side. The steamer by the river has ceased to run.

A. The *Railway*, on the N. side of the *Emme*, takes a N. direction by Herblingen Stat. to Thayingen, where it enters Baden and proceeds to the Lower Lake near Radolfzell.

*Singen Stat.*—(Inn, Krone). Near this place you pass at the foot of *Hautwiel*. The castle is now dis-

mantled. The lofty rock upon which it stands gives it the appearance of an Indian hill-fort.

*Radolfzell Stat.*—(Inn: Poste, good)—a desolate town, with a fine church, in the true German-Gothic style.

The scenery is exceedingly agreeable, often striking. The woods abound in most splendid butterflies. Collections of these insects may be bought at Singen, and also at Radolfzell.

*Reichenau Stat.*

Traversing the isthmus between the Lower Lake of Constance and the bay of Ueberlingen, the rly. reaches the Rhine opposite Constance, having first traversed the island on which stands the convent (now a manufactory) where John Huss was shut up.

The Rhine here, suddenly contracted from a lake to a river, is crossed by a handsome *Iron Bridge*, which also gives passage to the high road, in order to reach

*Constance Stat.* (See next page.)

B. The *Swiss Road* runs along the l. bank of the Rhine, past the Nunneries of Paradies and Katherinethal, the former belonging to the order of St. Clara, the latter of St. Dominic; but the revenues and the number of sisters in both are now much reduced. The Austrian army under the Archduke Charles crossed the Rhine at Paradies 1799.

*Diessenhofen*—(Inn: Adler).

*Wagenhausen*—(Inn: Ochse, clean and fair).

[1. A little off the road lies

*Stein*—(Inns: Schwan; Krone)—a town of 1270 Inhab., on the rt. bank of the Rhine, belonging to Schaffhausen, united by a wooden bridge with a suburb on the l. bank. The *Abbey of St. George* is a very ancient ecclesiastical foundation. The owners of the ruined castle of Hohenklingen, situated on the rocky height, were originally the feudal seigneurs of the town, but the citizens obtained independence from their masters by purchase.

3 miles E. of Stein, at a height of between 500 and 600 feet above the Rhine, are situated the *Quarries of Ehningen*, remarkable for the vast

abundance of fossil remains of terrestrial and fresh-water animals found in them, including mammalia, birds, reptiles, fishes, shells, insects, and plants, some of them identical with species now living. The most curious discovery is that of the perfect skeleton of a fossil fox, made by Sir Roderick Murchison: a very large tortoise had previously been brought to light. The beds of rock in which the quarries are worked consist of marls, limestones, shales, and building-stone. They lie immediately above the formation called *Molasse*, and differ in their organic contents from all other fresh-water formations hitherto discovered.]

Above Stein the Rhine expands into a lake called *Untersee* (lower lake) connected again by the Rhine at its upper extremity with the large Lake of Constance. *Feldbach*, also a nunnery, belonging to sisters of the Cistercian order, is passed before reaching

*Steckborn* (*Inns*: Löwe; Sonne). "In the broad part of the Rhine, where it is still rather a lake than a river, is the *Isle of Reichenau*, anciently famed for its Benedictine Monastery, suppressed in 1799, founded by one of the successors of Charlemagne, of which the *Church* (partly Romanesque) and *Treasury* remain. In the *Treasury* are to be seen the shrine of St. Fortunata, an ivory ciborium, a cope, a crosier, and a missal of the 10th century."—F. S.

*Itznang*, a small village on the opposite shore of the river, within the territory of Baden, is the birthplace of Mesmer, the inventor of animal magnetism.

Near the village of *Berlingen* the pretty *château* of the Duchess of Dino appears; and a little further that of *Arenenberg*, once the residence of the late Duchess of St. Leu (Hortense, ex-Queen of Holland), and of her son Prince Louis (now the Emperor Louis Napoleon), before he made his attempt at Strasbourg. It was sold in 1843 to a Neuchâtel gentleman, and more recently repurchased by the Emperor.

The Castle of *Gottlieben*, on the l.

of the road, built by the Bishops of Constance 1250, on the Rhine, at the point where it enters the *Untersee*, is remarkable for having been the prison of John Huss and Jerome of Prague, who were confined within its dungeons by order of the Emperor Sigismund and Pope John XXIII. The latter was himself transferred a few months later to the same prison, by order of the Council of Constance. The building is now the property of Count Beroldingen.

*Petershausen*, on the rt. bank of the Rhine opposite Constance, was a free abbey of the Empire. A fine iron bridge, flanked by statues of Baden knights and bishops, carries both road and rly. across the Rhine to

*Constance Terminus*.

CONSTANCE. *Inns*: Brochet (*Hecht*); Post (Golden Adler, highly recommended); Badescher Hof; H. Halm.

The *Angler* can find no better quarters in Switzerland than at Constance for lake fishing.

Constance, a city of 9400 Inhab., instead of 40,000, which it once possessed, is remarkable for its antiquity, since its streets and many of its buildings remain unaltered since the 15th century. Although situated on the l. or Swiss bank of the Rhine, it belongs to Baden. It occupies a projecting angle of ground at the W. extremity of the Bodensee, or lake of Constance; its agreeable position and interesting historical associations make amends for the want of life perceptible within its venerable walls. It has of late, however, revived considerably; the government have formed, at a large expense, a Port on the lake, which facilitates the navigation, while it is an ornament to the town: and several manufactories of cotton and muslin have sprung up. The ancient bishopric, numbering 87 bishops, was terminated in 1802, and in 1805 Constance was ceded by Austria to Baden.

The *Cathedral* or *Minster* is a handsome Gothic structure, founded 1052, rebuilt in the 16th cent.; the tower with spire of open work in 1850-57, at

the W. end; the oak doors of the main portal are carved with reliefs of the Passion of our Lord, by Simon Bainer, 1470. The nave is supported by sixteen pillars, each of a single block, and dates from the 13th century. The spot where the "Arch-heretic Huss" stood, as sentence of death by burning was pronounced on him by his unrighteous judges, is still pointed out. Robert Hallam, Bishop of Salisbury, who presided over the English deputation to the council, is buried here, in front of the high altar, under a tomb, which is very remarkable, as being of *English brass*, which is fully proved by the workmanship. It was probably sent over from England by his executors. He wears the Order of the Garter. Beneath the ch. is a very ancient *crypt*. Two sides of the ancient *\*Cloisters*. whose arches are filled in with beautiful tracery, are yet standing. On the E. side of the cathedral is a chapel, perhaps a baptistery, in the centre of which is a Gothic Holy Sepulchre.

There are some missals, plate relics in the *Sacristy*, also a beautiful Gothic fireplace and piscina. In the *Vestry-room* above are a range of cupboards or presses of carved oak, none of a later date than the 15th century. There is a beautiful view from the tower of the cathedral, W. over the lake and mountains of Tyrol, and E. over the valley of the Rhine.

The *Dominican Convent*, now a cotton-printing establishment, is the place where Huss was confined. The church forms a picturesque ruin, in the early style of German Gothic. The cloisters are perfect. The rly. crosses the little island upon which this building stands.

In the *Hall of the Kaufhaus* (built 1688, as a warehouse), close to the lake, the *Council of Constance* held some of its sittings 1414-18, in a large room supported by wooden pillars. That famous assembly, composed, not of bishops alone, like the ancient councils, but of deputies, civil and ecclesiastical, from the whole of Christendom, including princes, cardinals (30), patriarchs (4), archbishops (20),

[Switz.]

bishops (150), professors of universities and doctors of theology (200), besides a host of ambassadors, inferior prelates, abbots, priors, &c., was convened for the purpose of remedying the abuses of the church. It exerted its influence in curbing the Papal power, by deposing the infamous John XXIII. and Benedict XIII., and by electing in their place Martin V. It was by the act of this council that John Huss and Jerome of Prague were seized and executed, in spite of the safe-conduct granted to the former by the Emperor Sigismund, the president of the assembly.

The chairs occupied by the Emperor and Pope, a model of the dungeon, now destroyed, in which Huss was confined; it is of the same size as the original, and in it the actual door and other fragments have been incorporated;—also the car on which he was drawn to execution; the figure of Abraham, which supported the pulpit from the Minster, and which the people mistook for Huss, and defaced accordingly, and some other relics of the council, still remain in the hall, besides a collection of Roman and German antiquities, dug up in the neighbourhood. 1 fr. is charged for admission.

The *house* in which *Huss* lodged, bearing a rude likeness of him, is pointed out in the Paul's Strasse, near the Schnetzthor. He was thrown into prison, soon after his arrival, in the *Franciscan Convent*, now a ruin, whence he was removed to a more irksome dungeon, affording scarcely room to move, in the before-mentioned *Dominican Convent*.

The field, outside of the town, in the suburb of Brühl, in which he suffered martyrdom, with a fortitude which moved even his judges and executioners to admiration—nay, even the place where the stake was planted, are still pointed out; and rude images of Huss and Jerome, formed of clay taken from the spot, are offered for sale to the stranger.

Here is a capital Swimming Bath at the *Ecole de Natation* in the midst of the lake, approached by a long

plank bridge, at the end of which, stuck up in large letters visible far off, may be read the temperature of the waters.

*Excursions* may be made hence to Reichenau (see above), Meinau, and Heiligenberg. The island of Meinau, about 4 m. N. of Constance, is a well-cultivated little estate, with no want of trees. The house was once a commandery of the Knights of the Teutonic Order. It was purchased, 1853, by the Grand Duke of Baden. From the terrace of the garden there is a magnificent view over the lake, of the mountains of the Vorarlberg and Appenzell, among which the Sentis is pre-eminent. Meinau is approached by a wooden foot-bridge  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. long, connecting it with the shore; there is an inn on the island.

From *Hohenrain*, 1 hour's walk, is a fine view of the Alps.

*Railway* to Schaffhausen and Basle (Baden line).

*Diligences* or steamer to Romanshorn, thence by rail to Zürich;—steamer to Rorschach, thence by rail to St. Gall or Coire (Railway direct to Zürich begun).

#### *Lake of Constance, or Boden See.*

About 20 *Steamboats* navigate the lake of Constance. The time and place of starting are promulgated in a printed tariff, which will be found hung up in all the inns near the lake. It takes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours to go from Constance to Lindau, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to Rorschach or Friedrichshafen. Friedrichshafen to Romanshorn 1 hr.; to Rorschach  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. Romanshorn to Lindau,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. The steamers take carriages. The numerous stoppages, and the shifting of passengers from one steamer to another, are annoyances for which travellers must be prepared.

The lake of Constance, called by the Germans *Boden See*, and anciently known to the Romans under the name *Lacus Brigantinus* (from Brigantia, the modern Bregenz), is bordered by the territories of 5 different states—Baden, Würtemberg, Bavaria, Austria, and Switzerland; and a portion of its coasts belongs to each of them. It is

about 24 m. long, from Bregenz to Constance, and 16 from Bregenz to Friedrichshafen; about 10 m. wide in the broadest part; 964 ft. is its greatest depth; and it abounds in fish, of which 25 species have been enumerated. It lies 1385 ft. above the sea.

A telegraph iron cable has been sunk, and works between Rorschach and Lindau at 293 feet, and between Romanshorn and Friedrichshafen is nearly 900 feet in depth.

Its main tributary is the Rhine, which enters at its E. extremity, and flows out under the walls of Constance. The accumulated deposits of the river have formed an extensive delta at the upper end of the lake, and are annually encroaching farther.

Its banks, either flat or gently undulating, present little beauty of scenery compared with other Swiss lakes; but they are eminently distinguished for their fertility, and its S. shore is studded with a picturesque line of ruined castles or hill-forts of the middle ages.

At its E. extremity it displays alpine features in distant glimpses of the snow-topped mountains of Vorarlberg, but the distant Sentis towers over the cultivated slopes which border the lake, and is a fine feature all the way from Constance.

Its waters, on an average, are lowest in the month of February, and highest in June and July, when the snows are melting: it sometimes swells a foot in 24 hours at that season.

On quitting Constance, to the rt. is the suppressed Augustine convent of Kreuzlingen, now turned into an agricultural school, with 70 or 80 pupils. The edifice dates from the end of the 30 years' war, in the course of which the preceding building was destroyed.

The *Church* possesses in a side chapel some wood-carvings by a Tyrolese, representing the Passion, with several hundred small figures; also a vest embroidered with pearls, the gift of Pope John XXII. in 1414.

The canton of Thurgovia, which occupies the S. shore of the lake from

Constance to Arbon, is distinguished for its surpassing fertility. Instead of rocks and mountains, and alpine pastures, the characteristics of other parts of Switzerland, this canton presents richly-cultivated arable land, waving with corn and hemp; the place of forests is supplied by orchards; it is, indeed, the garden and granary of Helvetia. The country is at the same time thickly peopled, abounding in villages and cheerful cottages.

The nunnery of Münsterlingen, about 4 m. further, was suppressed in 1838, and converted into an hospital. The surviving sisters are allowed to occupy one wing of the building during their lifetime. The old convent near the water was the scene of the reconciliation between the Emperor Sigismund and Duke Frederick of Austria, 1418.

*Romanshorn* (Rte. 10)—(H. Bodan)—Terminus of the Rly. from Winterthur and Zürich. It is the port of communication by steamer with

*Friedrichshafen*, on the 'N. shore of the lake (*Inns*: Deutsches Haus, at the Rly. station; Hôtel Nestle, nearer the steamers, good and moderate; König von Würtemberg; Sonne; Krone). Here is the *Villa* of the King of Würtemberg, in which he usually passes a part of the summer, with pleasant *Gardens*. The rly. runs down to the side of the steamer. At Friedrichshafen is the terminus of the Stuttgart Rly., which joins the Baden Rly. at Bruchsal. See HANDBOOK FOR SOUTH GERMANY.

*Arbon* (*Inns*: Krentz; Traube), a walled town of 660 Inhab., close upon the lake. The Romans under Augustus built a fort here, upon the high road from Augst and Windisch to Bregenz, which they called *Arbor Felix*. It was abandoned by them to the Allemanni in the 5th century. The *Castle*, on an eminence overlooking the lake, was built 1510, but its tower is said to rest on Roman foundations. The *belfry*, detached from the church, is boarded, not walled, on the side nearest the castle, in order

that no force hostile to the lords of the castle should be enabled to shelter themselves in it, or annoy the castle from thence. The monk of St. Gall is said to have died at Arbon (640), and the place was a favourite residence of Conradin of Hohenstaufen.

*Lindau* (*Inns*: Bayrischer Hof; Krone) is the terminus of the Bavarian Rly., 5 hrs. from Augsburg. See HANDBOOK FOR SOUTH GERMANY.

*Bregenz* (*Inns*: Oesterreichischer Hof; Post or Goldener Adler; Schwarzer Adler; Krone), the chief place in the Vorarlberg. Pedestrians intending to travel from Switzerland into the Tyrol may find it a good plan to pass their heavy luggage at the Austrian custom-house here, and forward it by diligence to Innsbruck or Botzen. (See Rte. 66, and HANDBOOK FOR SOUTH GERMANY).

*Rorschach* (Rte. 65). Rly. *Terminus* of the *Railways* to St. Gall (Rte. 65) and to Coire up the valley of the Rhine (Rte. 66). A short distance from Rorschach is the mouth of the Rhine, E. of which is the Vorarlberg in Austrian territory.



## ROUTE 9.

SCHAFFHAUSEN TO ZÜRICH—RHEINFALL  
RAILWAY.

Stations.	Eng. m.
Schaffhausen.	
Dachsen	3
Andelfingen . . . . .	7
Winterthur . . . . .	18
Effretikon . . . . .	24
Wallisellen . . . . .	30
Zürich . . . . .	35

The Rly. station at Schaffhausen is just outside the town on the S.W. After leaving the town, the rly. continues on the rt. bank of the Rhine for about 2 m., till just above the falls, when it turns and crosses the river by a very long *stone bridge*. Immediately afterwards it enters a tunnel and passes under the Castle of Laufen. On emerging from the tunnel, which is short, a rapid view of the falls may be caught on the rt.

*Dachsen Stat.* (Hotel Witzig) is about 10 min. walk from the Falls of the Rhine and Schloss Laufen hotel. (See Rte. 7.) The rly. keeps for a short distance on the cliffs close to the Rhine, but high above it, forming a road wonderfully picturesque, and then quits the Rhine and proceeds through a fertile country somewhat uninteresting, but with occasional fine views, towards the valley of the Thur, making a great bend in order to cross that river near

*Andelfingen Stat.*

The rly. now ascends a considerable incline, in order to cross the ridge between the valley of the Thur and the valley of the Töss, and affords a fine view on the rt. before descending into the broad and fertile valley of the Töss.

*Winterthur Junct. Stat.*—(Buffet at Stat. Inns: \*Adler, nearest the Stat., good; Wilder Mann, good;—Sonne)—an industrious manufacturing town of 6600 Inhab. (chiefly Protestants), consisting of two long parallel streets, crossed by eight smaller ones at right angles. The *New School* is the only conspicuous building.

The weaving of muslin and the

printing of cotton are the most thriving branches of industry here.

This is the junction station of the *Rorschach* and *St. Gall* line with the *Romanshorn* line (Rte. 10).

After leaving Winterthur the rly. follows the rather picturesque valley of the Töss, passing rt. the ancient Dominican Convent of Töss, on the road, now converted into a factory, the chosen retreat of the Empress Agnes after the murder of her father, Albert of Austria. Here her daughter-in-law, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, took the veil, and died in the odour of sanctity: her monument, with the arms of Hungary, is visible in the existing church. The cloisters, built with the church in 1469, are ornamented with fresco paintings of Bible subjects.

On the banks of the Töss, on the l. of the railroad, and nearly 4 m. S. from Winterthur, rises the *Castle of Kyburg*, memorable in history as an ancient possession of the House of Austria, inherited 1264, on the failure of the line of powerful Counts of Kyburg, who flourished between the 9th and 13th cents., by Rudolph of Habsburg. He and other emperors often resided here, and kept here the regalia of the empire. It passed from them 1375, yet the Emp. of Austria still retains the title of Count of Kyburg. From 1452 to 1798 it was occupied by a Zurich bailiff (Land Voght), and is now private property. It is furnished in antique style; contains a picture gallery, chamber of torture, and old chapel with original frescoes on its walls. Fine view from the towers.

The rly. crosses the Töss, and, quitting that river, follows another stream into the valley of the *Glatt*, up which on the l. there is a fine view of Glärnisch and other mountains.

*Wallisellen Junct. Stat.*

[Here the branch rly. up the manufacturing valley of the Glatt to Rüti, and thence to Coire by Wallenstadt, joins.]

Shortly after leaving Wallisellen a long tunnel under the hill of Weid is traversed; on emerging from it the



Limmat is crossed, and after making some very sharp curves the rly. reaches

*Zürich Terminus.*

**ZÜRICH.** — *Inns:* Hôtel Baur, a large, handsome, comfortable house, with a reading-room: and a 2nd house, a quieter hotel, with garden, and all English comforts, close to the lake, with a fine view, called H. Baur au Lac. These are two of the best Inns in Switzerland, and M. Baur is the most polite and attentive of landlords. *Charges:* Table-d'hôte at 5, 4 frs.; B., 2 frs.; rooms looking over the lake, 3 frs.; bougie, 1 fr.; sitting-room, 6 to 10 frs. In the reading-room the *Times*, *Galignani*, and 2 American papers. H. Bellevue, on the lake, very good. H. Bilharz, formerly H. Bellevue, in the town. Schweizerhof, on the river, below the bridge, cheap. Züricher Hof on the rt. bank of the Limmat, view of the lake. Schwerdt (Epée). Faucon, large house. Storck, commercial. There is a good café restaurant in the Hotel Baur.

Passengers taking the fast morning train from Frankfort may reach Zürich in the day without stopping, or even changing carriages at Basle.

Zürich, the most important manufacturing town of Switzerland, and the capital of a canton distinguished above all others for prosperous industry, has 20,000 Inhab., or, including its suburbs, 45,000, nearly all Protestants, and lies at the N. end of the lake of Zürich, and on the banks of the Limmat, just where it issues out of the lake in a rapid and healthful stream, clear as crystal, and another river, the Sihl, flows on the W. side of the town. A Roman station, *Turicum* (?), on this spot, probably gave rise both to the town and its name. The canton became one of the Swiss confederacy in 1351. The Reformation occasioned more bitterness here than in any other canton, and the domestic quarrels have always been very violent. The flourishing condition of the town is visible in the improvements going

forward in it, and in the number of the new buildings in and around it. The banks of the Lake (described in Rte. 13) and the Limmat, and all the neighbouring hills, are thickly dotted over with houses, now united with the town itself by the removal (in 1833) of the useless and inconvenient ramparts, and forming a wide circle of suburbs. Zürich was the scene of a battle in Sept. 1799, when 37,000 French under Massena drove out the Russians under Korsakof, and compelled them to fall back upon the Rhine with a loss of 8000 men.

Apart from its agreeable situation, and thriving manufactures, there is not much to be seen in Zürich. There are no fine buildings here: that of the most consequence is the

\**Gross Münster*, on the rt. bank of the Limmat, surmounted by 2 W. steeples. It is venerable from its age, and worthy of respect from having been the scene of Zwingli's bold preachings of Reformation in the church, and amendment of morals. It is a massive Romanesque edifice of the 11th and 12th centys.; very plain within and without, but interesting in the eye of the architect and antiquary. It has no W. entrance, and ends square to the E. Its nave is supported on square pillars and round arches: beneath it is a very perfect crypt. See its very fine N. doorway with detached shafts and the adjoining *cloisters* raised upon small low triple arches, with slender columns and capitals of various patterns, admirably carved.

The *Frau Münster*, close to the Münster Bridge (13th centy.), and the *Barfusser Kirche* are worthy of the architect's attention.

The house in which Zwingli passed the last six years of his life is No. 185 in the Grosse Stadt.

The *Ch. of St. Peter* (with the large clock), on the l. bank of the Limmat, had for its minister, for 23 years, Lavater, the author of the renowned work on Physiognomy, who was born at Zürich. On the capture of the town by the French army, he was shot, within a few steps of his own door,

0 100 200 300 400 METERS  
0 100 200 300 400 FEET



by a French soldier, to whom, but two minutes before, he had given wine and offered money, and while he was in the act of assisting another soldier who had been wounded. A high reward was offered by Massena, the French commander, for the discovery of the murderer: but Lavater refused to inform against him. After lingering through three months of excruciating agony, Lavater expired, Jan. 2, 1801, at the parsonage: his grave is marked by a simple stone in the *churchyard of St. Anne*, where Ebel, author of the *Swiss Guide*, and Escher von der Linth (Rte. 13), are also buried.

*St. Augustine's*, a well-restored ch., contains 2 modern frescoes by Deschwanden.

The *Town Library*, close to the New stone bridge, in a building formerly a church (*Wasserkirche*), contains, in addition to 45,000 printed volumes and MSS., 100 vols. of autograph letters of early Reformers; 3 Latin letters of *Lady Jane Grey* to Bullinger, in a beautifully clear and regular hand—a few grammatical errors have been remarked in them; Zwingli's Greek Bible, with marginal notes (chiefly Hebrew) by himself; a Roman inscription, giving the ancient name of Zürich, *Turicum*; a bust of Lavater, by *Dannecker*; a portrait of Zwingli and his daughter, by *Hans Asper*; a model in relief of a large part of Switzerland, interesting and superior to that at Lucerne; some very curious fossils from *Ehningen*, including one described by *Scheuchzer* as a human skull, though in reality a portion of a salamander—fossils of the Glarus slate, chiefly fishes, from the *Plattenberg*. Here are placed a number of antiquities found among the remains of *Swiss Lake Dwellings*, of which Professor Keller is the exponent.

The *Old Arsenal* (*Altes-Zeughaus*), near to *Baur's Hotel*, contains some ancient armour; also a cross-bow, said to be (?) that with which William Tell shot the apple from his son's head; Zwingli's battle-axe. A sword of William Tell, and a battle-axe borne by *Ulric Zwingli* at the battle of *Kappel* (R. 16), are of very doubt-

ful authenticity: though the malice of the enemies of Zwingli may have led to the assertion that he took active part in the fight, it is believed that he assisted his countrymen merely with exhortations and consolations of religion;—and several tattered standards, taken by the Swiss from their enemies, including one of Charles the Bold of Burgundy. This collection is inferior to those in several other Swiss cantons.

One of the handsomest modern buildings is the *Polytechnic Institute*, on the hill, near the Great Hospital, built 1865, from designs of Wolf and Semper. In it is placed

The *University*, established 1832-3, when many professors, expelled from other countries for their political opinions, repaired hither as teachers. The number of students is 270. The terrace in front commands a very fine view. The *Library* contains many original MSS. of the early reformers; and the *Museum of Natural History* some good specimens of Swiss minerals and fossils, together with the *Herbarium* of John Gessner, and a zoological collection.

One of the most pleasing features about Zürich is its *Promenades* and points of view. One of the best of them is an elevated mound, once forming part of the ramparts, and called \**Cats' Bastion* (*Katz*), now included in the *Botanical Garden*, which is prettily laid out in walks and shrubberies, and opened to the public without restriction, a privilege not abused: it commands a delightful view of the town, lake, and distant Alps. Nothing can be more delightful than the view at sunset from this point, extending over the smiling and populous shores of the beautiful lake to the distant peaks and glaciers of the Alps of Glarus, Uri, and Schwytz, tinged with the most delicate pink by the sinking rays. The most prominent and interesting of the Alpine peaks seen from this, beginning at the E., are the *Sentis* in Appenzell, barely visible; *Glärnisch*, *Dödi*, *Klariden* in Glarus, *Achsenburg*, *Rossherg*, and *Uri Rothstock*. The collection of *Alpine Plants*,

embracing 700 species, well deserves the attention of botanists.

The *Hohe Promenade*, a raised terrace, stretching above the lake from the heights E. of the town, also commands a good view, but more confined than the former.

*Environs. a.* The *Gasthaus Zur Weid*, 1 hr. walk on the Baden road, commands a magnificent view of the Alps, the town, and the vale of the Limmat.

*b.* The *Uetliberg*, 2792 ft. 5 m. W. of the town, one of the Albis range commands a complete panorama, and is easily accessible in 1 h. to the foot of the hill and another hour to the top. The Inn on the top is good and contains 10 rooms; it is visited for the sake of the view at sunrise, but should be avoided on Saturday evening, when it is generally crowded. Pedestrians might prefer sleeping there, to spending an idle afternoon in Zürich. From the Uetliberg to the *Albis Inn* (Rte. 16) is an agreeable walk of 3 hrs.

*c.* On the triangular piece of ground at the junction of the Limmat and Sihl, N. of the Rly. Stat., planted with shady avenues, is a simple monument to the memory of Solomon Gessner, author of 'The Death of Abel,' who was a native of Zürich.

Zürich is historically remarkable as the place where the Reformation first commenced in Switzerland, under the guidance and preaching of Ulric Zwingli, in 1519. It had already, at an earlier period, afforded safe and hospitable shelter to Arnold of Brescia, when driven out of Italy for inveighing against the temporal power of the Pope. It was the asylum of many eminent English Protestants banished by the persecutions of the reign of Queen Mary: they met with a friendly reception from its inhabitants during their exile. The first *entire English version* of the Bible, by Miles Coverdale, was printed here in 1535.

Zürich is the native place of Ham-merlin the reformer; of Gessner the poet, and Gessner the naturalist; of Lavater; and of Pestalozzi the teacher.

The principal *Manufactures* are

those of silk, the weaving of which occupies many thousands in the town and along the shores of the lake. There are one or two large cotton-factories. The *Papierhof* is a large paper mill, 1 m. S. of the city on the river Sihl. The cotton and silk goods made in the neighbourhood, and in other parts of the canton, are the object of an extensive commerce with Germany and Italy, and compete in price with English goods. Mr. Escher's large *manufactory of machinery* employs 700 persons, including several English overseers. Most of the iron steamers plying on the Swiss lakes are made by him, and boats, engines and all, are carried in pieces by carts over the St. Gothard to the Italian lakes. Many of the manufacturers of Zürich have the reputation of great wealth, without much polish; hence the expression, "Gros-sier comme un Zurichois." Those inhabitants, however, with whom the traveller comes in contact, are certainly more polished, and ready to oblige, than the generality of German Swiss.

The modern erections include, besides the fine *Hospital*, an *Orphan House* (*Waisenhaus*), an *Asylum* for blind and deaf (*Blinden Institut*), and a stone bridge over the river.

*English Service* on Sundays in St. Ann's Church.

The *Museum Club* contains a capital reading-room, where *Galvani*, *The Times*, *John Bull*, *Examiner*, *Athenæum*, and *Literary Gazette*, *Quarterly* and *Edinburgh Reviews* are taken in; besides more than 300 of the best Continental journals. Travellers can be introduced for a few days by a member. Open 8-12 a.m. and 2-6 p.m.

Those who enter Switzerland on this side will do well to provide themselves with maps, &c., here.

*Leuthold* (next door to H. Bayr, speaks English) has a good collection of guide-books, maps, prints, stationery, &c. He is the publisher of an excellent map.

*Booksellers*—Meyer and Zeller; Orell, Fuessli & Co.; Schabelitz.

*Kerez*, chemist, in the *Wein Platz*, makes up English prescriptions.

*Furrer* is well recommended as a voiturier and job-master.

The *Post Office* is a handsome building, faced with Doric pillars, near the *Frau-Münster Kirche*, opposite *H. Baur*.

*Baths* in the lake near the *Bauschanze*, the purity of which is not to be surpassed.

*Railways*—To Basle, terminus on the *Schützenplatz*; to Romanshorn and Schaffhausen; to St. Gall and Rorschach; to Coire; to Berne; to Zug and Lucerne (Rte. 16), by which the Rigi top may be reached in about 8 hrs. from Zürich.

*Steamboats* go many times a day from Zürich to the other end of the lake (*Rapperschwyl*) and also to Schmerikon and back (Rte. 13). The Rigi top may be reached from Zürich in 9 hrs., and Lucerne in 7 hrs., taking the steamboats to Horgen, and afterwards across the lake of Zug (Rte. 15); but the Rly. to Zug is quicker.

a château on the heights above it there is a fine view over the lake (Rte. 8).

*Weinfelden*, celebrated for its wines. The council of the canton Thurgau sits here.

*Müllheim*.—A wooden tower has been erected on the summit of *Hohenrain*, a hill near this, on account of the extensive view. (See p. 26.)

*Frauenfeld*—(*Inns*: Krone, best: Hirsch)—the chief town of the canton Thurgovie (Germ. Thurgau), has 3956 Inhab., and is situated on the river Murg, which sets in motion the wheels of several cotton, dyeing, and printing mills. It is a mean and uninteresting little place. The *Castle*, on a basement of rock fronting the Murg, was built in the 11th century, by one of the vassals of the Counts of Kyburg.

On a hill to the S. of the town stands the Capuchin Convent, founded in 1595, now occupied by only 7 or 8 brothers.

*Winterthur Junct. Stat.* (see Rte. 9).  
ZÜRICH (Rte. 9).

## ROUTE 10.

ROMANSHORN TO ZÜRICH, BY WINTERTHUR.—RAILWAY.

	Eng. m.
Romanshorn.	
Weinfelden Stat. . . .	14
Müllheim Stat. . . .	19
Frauenfeld Stat. . . .	25
Winterthur Stat. . . .	35
Wallisellen Stat. . . .	46
Orlikon Stat. . . .	48
Zürich Stat. . . .	51

*Romanshorn* (*Hôtel Bodan*), terminus of the N.E. Rly., and station for the steamers from Friedrichshafen, Lindau, and Bregenz (Rte. 8),—a small village on the lake of Constance. From

## ROUTE 12.

ZÜRICH TO BERNE, RAILWAY.

	Eng. m.
Zürich.	
Baden . . . . .	15
Aarau . . . . .	31
Herzogenbuchsee . . . .	56
Berne . . . . .	80

Trains in 4 to 5½ hrs.: distance about 80 m. The road is very circuitous: as far as Olten it is the same as to Basle (Rte. 6). At Olten it joins the Basle and Berne line (Rte. 5).

BERNE (Rte. 24).

## ROUTE 13.

ZÜRICH TO RAGATZ, BY THE LAKES OF  
ZÜRICH AND WALLENSTADT.—RAIL.

Whole distance, 64 Eng. m.

	Eng. m.
Zürich.	
Rapperschwyl (by water) about	19
Uznach (by road or rly.) . . .	9
Wesen (by road or rly.) . . .	11
Wallenstadt (by rly.) . . .	12
Ragatz (by road or rly.) . . .	13

Those who wish to enjoy scenery will prefer the lake to the rly.

From Zürich (Rte. 9) there are 3 or 4 trains daily each way: travellers have no difficulty in making the journey partly by water and partly by rly., so as to arrive at their journey's end by daylight.

10 or 12 *Steamboats* traverse the Lake of Zürich, to and fro, 8 times a day, to Rapperschwyl, in 2 to 2½ hours. *Steamer* also once a day to Schmerikon and back. Some of the steamers zigzag from one side of the lake to the other, to take in and let out passengers at the different towns.

[*Diligences, &c.*, at Horgen for Zug and Arth on the way to the Rigi (Rte. 15); and at Richterswyl for Einsiedeln and Schwytz.]

The *Lake of Zürich* has no pretensions to grandeur of scenery; that must be sought for on the silent and savage shores of the lakes of Lucerne, Brienz, and Wallenstadt; but it has a charm peculiarly its own—that of life and rich cultivation. Its borders are as a beehive, teeming with population, and are embellished and enlivened at every step by the work of man. The hills around it are less than 3000 feet above the sea, and descend in gentle slopes down to the water's edge; wooded on their tops, clad with vineyards,

orchards, and gardens on their slopes, and carpeted with verdant pastures, or luxuriantly waving crops of grain at their feet. But the principal feature in this landscape is the number of human habitations: the hills from one extremity to the other are dotted with white houses, villas of citizens, cottages, and farms, while along the margin of the lake, and on the high road, they gather into frequent clusters around a church, forming villages and towns almost without number. Every little stream descending from the hill is compelled to do duty by turning some mill; at the mouths of the valleys enormous factories are erected, and thus the shores of the lake, on either side, have the appearance of one vast and almost uninterrupted village.

The effect of this lively foreground is heightened by the appearance of the snowy peaks of the Sentis, Dödi, and Glärnisch, which are seen at different points peering above the nearer hills. The charms of the Lake of Zürich inspired the Idylls of Gessner: they are celebrated in an ode of Klopstock, and in the prose of Zimmermann. The lake is about 26 miles in length from Zürich to Schmerikon, and not more than 3 broad at the widest part, between Stäfa and Wädenschwyl. The principal river falling into it is the Linth, which issues out at Zürich, under the name of Limmat.

Scarcely any of the villages or towns on the lake are remarkable, except as the seats of flourishing industry. A few only of the principal places are enumerated below, with their distance by land from Zürich. The banks are distinguished as rt. and l., in reference to the course of the Limmat.

l. The high ridge rising on the W. of Zürich, and bordering the lake for more than 12 miles, is the *Albis*.

rt. *Küssnacht*—(Inn: Sonne)—a village of 2114 Inhab.; not to be confounded with its namesake on the Lake of Lucerne, famous in the history of Tell.

l. *Rüschlikon*: behind this are the

baths of Nydelbad, with a bath-house called Belvoir, 340 ft. above the lake.

**rt. Meilen**—(*Inns*: Löwe; Sonne)—a very considerable village of 3036 Inhab., chiefly silk-weavers, with a Gothic church, built 1490-9. In the lake opposite Meilen the first discovery of those ancient lacustrine dwelling-places, which have attracted so much attention, was made in 1854 by M. Ferdinand Keller, of Zürich. Their remains consisted of hundreds of wooden piles, of weapons of stone and of bronze, of earthen vases, rudely woven stuffs, and bones of various animals.

**L. Thalwyl**—(*Inn*: Adler.) An elegant church has been built on a terrace, whence there is a lovely panorama of the lake, with the mounts of Appenzell and Glarus in the background.

Lavater is said to have written a portion of his work on Physiognomy at the parsonage of the village of Ober-Rieden, about 3½ m. farther on.

**L. Horgen**—(*Inns*: Meyerhof, good, pleasant garden; Löwe, clean). Here passengers bound for Lucerne or the Rigi, by way of Zug, disembark and cross the hills (Rte. 15).

**L. Wädenschwyl**—(*Inn*: Seehof, very fair)—a pretty village of 4357 Inhab., containing silk factories. Above it stands the castle, formerly residence of the bailiff (oberamtman), now private property.

**L. Richterswyl**—(*Inn*: Drei Könige). Here is one of the largest cotton factories on the borders of the lake. The village is built on the boundary line of cantons Zürich and Schwytz; behind it, the road to Einsiedeln ascends the hills. The pilgrims bound to that celebrated shrine usually disembark here. (See Rte. 72.) *Diligences* thither in the morning, on arrival of steamers in 2½ hrs., and afternoon to Schwytz. Zimmerman resided here as physician, and in his work on 'Solitude' justly praises the extreme beauty of Richterswyl.

**rt. Stäfa**—(*Inns*: Krone; Sterne)—an industrious village, the largest on this side of the lake, with 3500 Inhab., by whom much silk and cotton are woven. Göthe resided here 1797.

The extremity of the lake beyond this lies out of the limits of the canton Zürich. It has been calculated that the number of inhabitants on each of its banks, hence to the town of Zürich, a distance of 16 miles, is not less than 12,000.

On approaching Rapperschwyl (see next page) and its long bridge, the pretty little isle of *Aufnau* becomes a conspicuous feature and ornament to the landscape. It has some celebrity as the retreat and burial-place of Ulric Von Hutten, a Franconian knight, the friend of Luther and Franz of Sickingen, distinguished equally for his talents and chivalrous bravery, but withal a bit of a roué. His satirical writings contributed not a little to the spread of the Reformation, but raised up against him such a host of enemies that he was forced to fly from the court of Charles V., and take refuge from their persecution, first, with Franz of Sickingen, and, after his death, in this little island. Zwingli had procured for him an asylum here, in the house of the curate, where he died a fortnight after his arrival (1523), at the age of 36. He was buried by a faithful friend, but all record of the spot in which he lies has long since disappeared.

The *Bridge of Rapperschwyl* is one of the longest in the world: it extends from the town to a tongue of land on the opposite side, completely across the lake, a distance of 4800 ft., or more than ¾ of a mile. It is only 12 ft. broad, is formed of loose planks laid (not nailed) upon piers, and is unprovided with railing at the sides, so that only one carriage can safely pass at a time. It was originally constructed by Leopold of Austria, 1358: the existing bridge dates from 1819.

A small stone pier has been thrown out into the lake at Rapperschwyl, a little below the bridge, outside the gate of the town, to receive passengers and merchandise from the steamboat. A Federal Arsenal has been built here.



The *Railway* runs quite away from the Zürich Lake by

Wallisellen Junct. Stat. (Rte. 9), where the line to Winterthur diverges l.; next by Dübendorf and Nanikon, following the Glatt Thal, a valley teeming with manufacturing industry; and passing

Uster Stat. and Wetzikon Stat., remarkable for the lacustrine deposits found in the neighbourhood, especially at *Robenhausen* by the small Pfäffiken See. Rude structures have been found 6 ft. below a layer of peat, and with them bones of 3 species of urochs; also chamois, bison, beavers, boars, &c., with remains of apples, pears, and cherries. *View* of Alps of Glarus, near

Bubikon Stat. l. rises the *Bachtel* (3444 ft. high), with an Inn on its top.—*View*. The Rly. does not approach the Lake of Zürich until near

rt. *Rapperschwyl* Stat. (Inns: H. du Cygne (Huber's), good and civil landlord; D. 2 fr. 50 c., D. apart 3 fr., B. 1 fr. 50 c., Br. 1 fr.;—H. du Lac;—Freihof, in the town). This is a very picturesque old town, in canton St. Gall (2500 Inhab.), still partly surrounded by walls, and surmounted by an *Old Castle* (Der Grafenburg). The *Church* contains some antique sacred vessels. Near it, from the terrace called *Lindenhof*, a fine view is obtained. It is about 19 m. from Zürich, and the same distance from Wesen. Roads run from hence to St. Gall, and across the bridge to Einsiedeln (Rte. 72); Rly. to Glarus (Rte. 74).

N.E. of Rapperschwyl is a mountain called the *Bachtel* (3674 ft.), with a small inn at the top, which is visited for the sake of the waters at Gyrenbad and of view—inferior to that from the Rigi, yet commanding an extensive panorama. The summit is most conveniently reached from the Rütli Stat. (Rte. 14) in about 2½ hrs. Mines of lignite are worked at Dürnten and Kœpfnach at the foot of the *Bachtel*.

*Schmerikon* Stat. (Inn: Ross), at the E. extremity of the Lake of Zürich. The castle of Grynau, on the rt.,

stands on the *Linth*, a little above its entrance into the lake. Pedestrians will find the towing-path along the Linth canal shorter than the carriage-road from Schmerikon to Wesen.

*Uznach* Stat. (Inn: zum Linth-hof, very fair)—a small town of 1293 Inhab., on an eminence, the summit of which is occupied by a small square tower of the ancient castle and by that of the church. *Diligence* to Lachen, Einsiedeln, Schwytz, and Brunnen on the Lake of Lucerne. There are mines of brown coal at Oberkirch, about a mile from Uznach, in a hill 1500 ft. high. Near Uznach is an immense cotton-mill, driving 24,480 spindles, and having 100 windows on each side. It is supplied with water from a mountain-torrent descending immediately behind it.

Soon after leaving Uznach, the valley of Glarus opens out into view, with the snowy mountains near its head, a very beautiful prospect. Out of this valley issues the river *Linth*, an impetuous torrent, fed by glaciers, and carrying down with it vast quantities of *débris*, which had accumulated to such an extent 25 years ago, that its channel was obstructed, and its bed raised many feet above the level of the lower part of the valley. From this cause arose repeated and most dangerous inundations, which covered the fertile district on its banks with stone and rubbish, and converted the meadows into a stagnant marsh. Nearly the entire valley between the lakes of Zürich and Wallenstadt was reduced to a desert, and its inhabitants, thinned in numbers by annual fevers, arising from the pestilential exhalations, abandoned the spot. The valley of the Linth was relieved from this calamity by Mr. Conrad Escher, who suggested to the Diet, in 1807, the ingenious plan of digging a new bed for the waters of the Linth, and turning it into the lake of Wallenstadt, in whose depths it might deposit the sand and gravel which it brought down, without doing any damage. He at the same time proposed to improve the issues of the

lake of Wallenstadt by digging a navigable canal from it to the lake of Zürich, so as to carry off the waters of the Linth, and the other streams falling into it, and cause it to drain the intervening valley, instead of inundating it. This important and useful public work was completed by Escher in 1822, and has been attended with perfect success. In consequence of it the valley is no longer sterile and unwholesome, and the high road to Wesen, which was often cut off and broken up by inroads of the river, is now carried in a straight line along its rt. bank. Immediately opposite the opening of the valley of the Linth, at whose extremity the mountains of Glarus now appear in all their grandeur, a simple *Monumental Tablet* of black marble has been let into the face of the rock by the roadside, to the memory of the public-spirited citizen who conferred this great benefit on the surrounding country. He earned from it, in addition to his name, the title *Von der Linth*, the only title which a republic could properly confer, and of which his descendants may be more proud than of that of count or baron. The total cost was 60,000*l.* The Linth is here crossed by a bridge called *Ziegelbrücke*, over which runs the road to Glarus. (Rte. 74.) Near it are a cotton manufactory and an establishment for the education of the poor of the canton Glarus. It is called the *Linth Colony*, because it owes its origin to a colony of 40 poor persons, afterwards increased to 180, who were brought hither by charitable individuals from the over-peopled villages of the canton, and setted on this spot, which was the bed of the Linth previous to Escher's improvements, in order to reclaim it by removing the stones and rubbish, and rendering it fit for cultivation. They were lodged, fed, and allowed a small sum for wages, the expense being defrayed by subscription. After having, by these means and by the correction of the Linth, described above, restored the valley to a state fit for agriculture, and having been saved themselves

from starvation, in a season of scarcity, they were dismissed to seek their fortunes with some few savings to begin the world; and, what was of more importance, with industrious habits, which they had learned while settled here. In the school which now replaces the colony, 40 children from 6 to 12 are taught, and teachers are also instructed.

The Railway runs by the side of the Linth Canal.

*Ziegelbrücke Stat.*

*Wesen Junct. Stat.* is at some distance from the village and lake. Here the rly. to Glarus branches rt. (Rte. 74).

*Wesen (Inns : H. zum Speer*, on the height, clean and comfortable; *l'Epée*) is a village of about 500 Inhab., at the W. extremity of the lake of Wallenstadt, and in the midst of scenery of great magnificence.

The ascent of the *Speer* is made in 3½ hrs. from Wesen: it commands a noble view. From the summit the traveller may reach Nesslerau in the Toggenburg (Rte. 71) in 2½ hrs.

There is an interesting pass without any difficulties from Wesen to Wildhaus (Rte. 71) in the Toggenburg. It crosses the ridge between the *Leistkamm* and the *Gulmen*, and may be accomplished, including the ascent of the *Gulmen*, in 7 or 8 hours' walking. [A carriage may be hired from Wesen to the Rigi by way of *Einsiedeln* (Rte. 72). The road turns out of that to Zürich at the *Inn*, *Zum Escher Linth*, crosses the canal, and proceeds through a pretty country by *Galgenen* and *Lachen* (Ox, a good inn), where it falls into the route from *Rapperschwyl*.]

#### LAKE OF WALLENSTADT.

(More properly *Wallensee*. 48 ft. above Lake of Zürich.)

The Railway is carried along the S. shore, through 10 tunnels lighted by openings cut through the rock. The l. side of the carriage should be taken.

There is no carriage-road on either side of the lake.

Previous to the construction of the Linth canal, the only outlet for the lake of Wallenstadt was a small stream called the Magg, which encountered the Linth after a course of about 2 miles, and was arrested by the débris and stones brought down by that river, so that not only were its waters often dammed up behind, but the surface of the lake was raised several feet above its ordinary level, in consequence of which they overflowed the valley both above and below it, and laid the villages of Wallenstadt, at the one end, and Wesen, at the other, under water for many months during the spring. By Escher's correction of the course of the Linth, its waters are now carried into the lake, where they have already formed, by their deposit of mud and gravel, a delta nearly half a mile long. Another canal, deep and protected at the side with strong dykes, now supplies the place of the Magg, and drains the lake of Wallenstadt into that of Zürich.

The lake of Wallenstadt is about 12 miles long by 3 broad; its scenery is grand, but somewhat wanting in variety, and therefore not equal to that of the lake of Lucerne. Its N. shore consists of colossal cliffs of lime and sandstone, regularly stratified, and so nearly precipitous that there is room for no road, and only for a very few cottages at their base, while their steep surface, almost destitute of verdure, gives to this lake a savage and arid character. The S. side consists of more gradually sloping hills covered with verdure and overtopped by the tall bare peaks of more distant mountains. Here there are several villages, and a very rough and irregular path runs along it. The lake has the reputation of being dangerous to navigate, on account of sudden tempests; but in this respect it does not differ from other mountain lakes. In Jan. 1851, however, the steamer was submerged by a squall, and every soul on board, 14 in all, perished. It was fished up from a great depth.

The precipices along the N. bank vary between 2000 and 3000 feet in eight, and the stranger is usually

surprised to learn that above them are situated populous villages and extensive pastures crowded with cattle. Such a one is the village of Amden, containing 3000 Inhab., nearly 2500 feet above the lake, with a church, gardens, and orchards. It is approached by one narrow and steep path, which may be traced sloping upwards from Wesen along the face of the mountain. Several waterfalls precipitate themselves over this wall of rock, or descend, by gashes or rents in its sides, into the lake; but they dwindle into insignificance by the end of summer, and add no beauty to the scene. The principal ones are the Beyerbach, 900 feet high (above which lies Amden), and the Seerenbach, 1200 feet high.

The hamlet of St. Quinten is the only one on this side of the lake. At the mouths of the streams and gullies, on the opposite (S.) side there are numerous villages, such as Terzen and Quarten, whose names clearly refer to the ancient military occupation of this district by the Romans.

The rly. on quitting Wesen Stat., and leaving rt. the line to Glarus, twice crosses the Linth Canal, and is then carried along the S. side of the Wallenstadt Lake, whose precipitous rock sides are penetrated by 9 tunnels. In the intervals and through the embrasures, grand views of the lake. At

Mühlehorn Stat. (Here is a homely little *Inn*.) A boat can be hired here.

Murg Stat., at the mouth of a small valley.

Near this a large cotton-factory has been built. Behind it rises the mountain Mürtschenstock. Its summit, 7270 feet high, apparently inaccessible, is traversed through and through by a cavern, which, though of large size, looks from the lake like the eye of a bodkin. The hole is best seen when abreast of the village of Mühlehorn; by those not aware of the fact, it might be mistaken for a patch of snow. This peak is said to be a favourite resort of chamois.

The N.E. extremity of the lake is bounded by the 7 picturesque peaks of the Sieben Churfürsten, or Kurfürsten. At their feet lies

*Wallenstadt Stat.*—*Inns*: Aigle d'Or, near the lake, tolerable; Hirsch (Cerf, or Poste)—a scattered township of 800 Inhab.; nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the lake, of which it commands no view. The flats of the valley around and above it are marshy, and the neighbourhood was formerly very unhealthy, so long as the irregularities of the Linth obstructed the passage of the waters of the lake. Wallenstadt is a dull place, and travellers have no need to stop here.

[A steep and rugged path by the side of the Churfürsten, commanding magnificent views, leads over the Hinterruck in 6 hrs. to Wildhaus (Rte. 71), whence Appenzell may be reached in another day (Rte. 68).]

There is considerable beauty in the scenery of the valley of the Seez. There are rich iron-mines, interesting to visit, in the Gonzen Mount above Seez; their yearly yield is 50,000 cwt. As the ore is hematite, everything is reddened that belong to the miners, even their cats. A good climber will enjoy a scramble to the top of the Gonzen, one of the finest panoramic views of the Rigi class. A ladder of 50 steps, chained against the face of a cliff, has to be surmounted.

*Mels Stat.* (*Inn*: \*Krone). The rly. enters the valley of the Rhine near

*Sargans Junct. Stat.*, some way from

*Sargans*—(*Inns*: Rossli; Löwe), a picturesque old town of 723 Inhab., on an eminence surmounted by a castle, near the junction of the roads from St. Gall and Zürich to Coire. It stands upon the watershed dividing the streams which feed the Rhine from those which fall into the lake of Wallenstadt; and this natural embankment is so slight (about 200 paces across and less than 20 feet high) that, as the deposits brought down by the Rhine are constantly raising its bed, it is not impossible, though scarcely probable, that the river may change its course, relinquish its present route by the lake

of Constance, and take a shorter cut by the lakes of Wallenstadt and Zürich. It was calculated by Escher von der Linth, from actual measurements, that the waters of the Rhine need rise but  $19\frac{1}{2}$  feet to pass into the lake of Wallenstadt; and it is, indeed, recorded that the river, swollen by long rains in 1618, was prevented taking this direction only by the construction of dams along its banks. Geologists argue, from the identity of the deposits of gravel in the valley of the Upper Rhine with those in the vale of Seez, that the river actually did pass out this way at one time. The rly. from Zürich by Winterthur, St. Gall, and Rorschach falls in here.

The remainder of this route up the valley of the Rhine, by

*Ragatz Stat.* (Rte. 66) to

*Coire Terminus*, is described in Rte. 66.

## ROUTE 15.

ZÜRICH TO LUCERNE AND THE RIGI,\* BY  
HÖRGEN, ZUG, AND IMMENSEE.

	Eng. m.	hrs.	min.
Zürich.			
Hörgen (steamer) . . .	9	=	1
Zug (diligence) . . .	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	=	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Immensee (steamer) . . .	6	=	1
Küssnacht (diligence) . . .	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	=	30
Lucerne (steamer) . . .	5	=	30
	35	=	7 0

The Rly. from Zürich to Zug and Lucerne is quicker (Rte. 16.)

This is a very pleasant expedition in fine weather. The times above given are those actually occupied, including stoppages, which are of course considerable. Passengers can book through from Zürich, and have no trouble with their luggage, fare 7 fr. 40. The steamers are so arranged as to meet

\* See Map, further on.

for road), and 6 to return the same day; 10 fr. to descend next day by the same road; with a drink-money of 1 fr. or 2 fr. a-day to the boy who leads the horses. A porter, to carry baggage, 6 fr. and 3 to return. A horse may be hired for 6 fr. up to the convent of Maria zum Schnee, below which is the steepest part of the ascent. *Chaises à porteur* may be procured for ladies who do not like to ride or walk, and each bearer receives 6 fr. up or 9 fr. up and down. At Weggis and elsewhere a boy to show the path, who will carry a light knapsack, may be hired for 1½ or 2 fr. In the height of summer, when the concourse of visitors is immense, those who are anxious may send up a telegraphic despatch from Zürich or Lucerne (charge 1 fr.) to secure beds at the Rigi-kulm inn, and for a franc extra, before starting, you may ascertain the number of the room secured for you. The pedestrian, unless he desire to be relieved of his baggage, has not much need of a guide, as the paths are most distinctly marked, and are traversed by so many persons that he can scarcely miss his way. To those who ride on horseback, the man who leads the horse will serve as guide.

a. *Ascent from Goldau, or Arth.*

	hrs. min.	
Goldau, or Arth		
Unter Dächli . . . . .	1	0
Maria zum Schnee . . . . .	0	50
Staffel . . . . .	0	45
Kulm . . . . .	0	40

Goldau (Rte. 17) may be reached from Arth in 20 min. by omnibus. It is generally preferred as a starting-point, and all things considered it is the best, because the ascent from Arth, before it joins the Goldau track, is steeper and more difficult for horses. There is an advantage in ascending the Rigi from this side, because the path runs along a deep gully in the interior of the mountain, the sides of which protect the traveller from the afternoon sun (a thing of importance), and shut out all view until the summit is reached, where it bursts at once

upon the sight: the other paths wind round the exterior of the mountain.

From Goldau the path strikes at once from the inn of the Cheval Blanc up the side of the mountain; at first across fields strewn with blocks from the Rossberg, which, by the force acquired in their descent down one side of the valley, were actually carried up the opposite slope.

Near a small public-house, called *Unter Dächli*, where the guides usually stop to give breath to their animals and a glass of schnaps to themselves, the path was very steep, but has lately been improved.

This is a good point for surveying the fall of the Rossberg in the vale of Goldau below. The long train of rubbish thrown down by that convulsion can be traced stretching across to the lake of Löwertz, which it partly filled up (see Rte. 17). The steep footpath from Arth falls into our road here. Here begin "the Stations," a series of 13 rude pictures fastened upon poles, each representing an event in our Lord's Passion, which lead up to the pilgrimage ch. Mary-of-the-Snow or *Klösterli*. At the chapel of Malchus, containing the Bearing of the Cross, the path from Löwertz falls into our route, and soon afterwards there is a steep path on the rt. leading towards the Culm, but avoiding Maria zum Schnee and the Staffel. Pedestrians sometimes go that way, but the track is ill-marked and the ground so rough that it is generally found to take more time than the regular path.

*Maria zum Schnee* is a little ch. much frequented by pilgrims, especially on the 5th of August, on account of the indulgences granted by the Pope at the end of the 17th century to all who make this pious journey. Adjoining it is a small *hospice*, *klösterli*, inhabited all the year by 3 or 4 Capuchin brothers, who do the duty of the church, being deputed by the fraternity at Arth on this service. The church is surrounded by a group of inns and pensions, the best of which (the *Sonne* and *Schwerdt*) are sometimes resorted to by invalids, who repair hither to drink

goat's whey, and might even afford a homely lodging to travellers benighted or unable to find room in the two inns on the top of the mountain: the others are public-houses, chiefly occupied by pilgrims. A very steep road and a very long half-hour's walking, up sloping meadows, brings the traveller to the inn called Rigi-Staffel. (See below.)

The ascent from *Arth* is by a steep path which falls into the Goldau path in about an hour, as above mentioned.

*b. Ascent from Immensee.*

This track is rather less steep, and about a mile longer, than that from *Arth* or *Goldau*; but as it lies in great part along a projecting ridge or spur of the mountain, it is much exposed to the afternoon sun, and therefore very hot. Those who have not dined at the inn at *Immensee* may find good bread, milk, butter, &c., at a neat *châlet* below the steeper part of the ascent. About half way up this joins the path from *Küssnacht*.

*c. Ascent from Küssnacht.*

*Küssnacht* is reached by steamer from *Lucerne*, and the ascent requires 3 hrs. to mount, 2½ to descend. A mule-path, as long as that from *Goldau*, and in some places more steep. A toll is paid on this road for mules. By a *détour* of ½ an hour, *Tell's Chapel* (see *Rte. 17*) may be visited in going or returning. Leaving *Küssnacht* and passing on the l. the ruins of *Gessler's Castle* (*Rte. 17*), the path is carried in zigzags up the steepest part of the mountain, through forests, and across the pastures called *Seeboden*. The lake of *Lucerne* is in sight almost the whole way. The horse-path emerges on the brow of the hill in front of the *Staffel* inn, but a steep foot-path strikes off to the l. some distance below, and leads direct to the very top.

*d. Ascent from Weggis.*

	hrs. min.	
<i>Weggis.</i>		
<i>Heiligenkreutz.</i> . . . .	1	0
<i>Kaltbad.</i> . . . .	1	0
<i>Staffel</i> . . . . .	0	40
<i>Kuhn</i> . . . . .	0	40

It is best to *descend* from the *Rigi* top to *Weggis*, and there take the steamer.

*Weggis.* *Inns:* *Eintracht* (*Concordia*); *Löwe* (*Lion*)—a small village on a little ledge at the foot of the *Rigi*, on the lake of the Four Cantons, is the spot where those who approach the *Rigi* by water, from *Lucerne*, land. It supports more than 40 horses, and guides in corresponding numbers. The steamer to and from *Lucerne* and *Flüelen* touches here 6 times daily (¾ hr.). A bad path, winding round the foot of the *Rigi*, connects *Weggis* with *Küssnacht*; but the chief communication is carried on by water.

The horse-path up the *Rigi* from *Weggis* is steeper than the three preceding: 2½ hrs. up; 1½ down. It strikes up the mountain immediately opposite the landing-place, and keeping to the rt. winds along the outside of the mountain, in constant view of the lake, passing, first, the little chapel of *Heiligenkreutz* (*Holy Cross*), and then leading up to a singular natural arch (called *Hochstein*, or *Felsenthor*), formed by 2 vast detached blocks of *nagelflue* (*pudding-stone*), holding suspended a third, beneath which the path is carried. These broken fragments serve to illustrate the tendency which this rock has to cleave and split, and to this cause may be attributed a singular torrent of mud, which, in the year 1795, descended from the flank of the *Rigi* upon the village of *Weggis*, destroying 30 houses and burying nearly 60 acres of good land. It advanced slowly, like a lava-current, taking a fortnight to reach the lake, so that the inhabitants had time to remove out of its way. It is supposed to have been produced by springs, or rain-water, percolating the cracks of the *nagelflue*, and converting the layer of clay, which separates it from the beds beneath it, into soft mud. Had there been any great fracture in the *nagelflue*, it is probable that a large portion of the mountain would have given way and slipped down into the lake, since the strata of the *Rigi* slope at a very steep angle.



Had this been the case, a catastrophe similar to that of the Rossberg might have ensued. As it was, the softened clay was squeezed out by the weight of the superincumbent mass of the mountain, and formed this deluge of mud, traces of which are still visible on the side of the mountain.

A little beyond the arch the path begins to turn to the l. or N., and then, at the point where the branch-path diverges to Klösterli, comes to the *Cold Bath* (kaltes Bad), where a source of very pure cold water, 41° Fahr., issuing out of the rock, supplies the bathing establishment of

RIGI KALTBAD, 4727 ft. (3310 ft. above Lake of Lucerne), a handsome, well-furnished *Hotel*, affording every comfort and accommodation for 140 guests; house well warmed; table-d'hôte, and good cook; a fine healthy situation, overlooking the lake, and sheltered from the N. and W. (breakfast at 8, dinner at 12, tea at 4, supper at 8). Reading-room. Baths and whey. Post to and from Lucerne daily. Telegraph stat. The season is from June to the middle of September. The society is chiefly German, and good. *Walks* to the Känzeli, fronting Pilatus (10 min.), and on to the Rothstock, grand sunset view, 1½ hr.; to the Kulm, 1 hr.; to Klösterli, ¾ hr.; to the Dossen, 1½ hr.; to Rigi Scheideck, 2 hrs.; to the Stalactite Caves on the road to Fetzna, 1 hr.; to Weggis, 1½ hr.; to Arth, 2 hrs.

In the olden time it was the custom for patients at the Kaltbad to lie down in the bath with their clothes on, and afterwards to walk about in the sun until they dried on the back; but this method is no longer regarded as essential to effect a cure. Close to the cold-bath is a little chapel dedicated to the Virgin, to which pilgrims repair, and in which mass is daily said for the shepherds on the Rigi.

The spring is called the *Sisters' Fountain*, from a tradition that 3 fair sisters sought refuge here from the pursuit of a wicked and tyrannical Austrian bailiff, and spent the re-

mainder of their days amidst the clefts of the rocks in the exercise of piety.

The path, after leaving the Kaltbad, keeps a N.W. direction till it reaches the S.W. angle of the mountain, leaving on the left of the path some projecting spurs, which furnish admirable points of view, in some respects superior to that from the summit. Then turning N.E. across pastures, the path reaches the *Staffel* (see below).

Whatever route may be chosen for the ascent, there can be no doubt that the descent should be made to Weggis. The varied and exquisite views of the Lake of Lucerne and the opposite ranges of Uri and Unterwalden are often found to leave a more permanent impression than the panorama from the summit.

#### e. Ascent from Gersau.

(Rte. 18.) 4½ hrs.

Crossing the meadows, and by a cascade of the Roehrlibach, and amongst huge blocks of fallen rock, the little inn of Unter Geschwänd is reached (1½ hr.). After passing the chapel of St. Joseph, and taking care to keep to the l., the baths and hotel are reached of

*Rigi Scheideck*, which accommodates 150 visitors. Magnificent view, partly differing from that from the Kulm. Many pleasant walks. The Scheideck is 3 hrs. from Gersau, and thence in 1 hr. Maria zum Schnee, on the Goldau track, is reached.

There are several other paths up the Rigi more or less fit for horses; one of the most interesting is that to *Fetzna*. From the Staffelhaus this path diverges l., passing a waterfall, behind which is a cavern, the vestibule of which is 100 ft. deep, and it is said to lead to others penetrating *through* the mountain. In Fetzna on the lake of Lucerne is a neat little *Inn*. The daughters of the house are good singers. Thence by boat in 1 hr. to Buochs. Another way is from Lowertz (Rte. 17).



*Summit of the Rigi.*

All the principal paths converge and unite in front of the *Staffelhaus*, a tolerable inn, cheaper than the *Kulm*, perhaps, but kept by the same family. It is  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour's walk below the *Kulm*, and it is a bad plan to stop short of it, since those who rest here must get up half an hour earlier next morning if they wish to catch the sunrise from the top.

The *Kulm*, or culminating point of the Rigi, is an irregular space of ground of some extent, destitute of trees, but covered with turf. A few feet from the top stands the *Inn*, a group of large buildings, affording good accommodation, considering the height, which exceeds that of the most elevated mountain in Britain, being 5910 ft. above the sea level, and 4270 ft. above the Lake of Lucerne. An enormous building was added in 1857, containing a vast *salle-à-manger*, and many other rooms. Unfortunately it is so near the top, and so high, as partially to interfere with the view. *Charges*: tea or breakfast,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  F. fr.; supper ( $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. after sunset), without wine, 4 fr.; bedroom, 3 fr.; servants, 1 fr. About 20,000 persons are said to visit this hotel in a year! The arrangements are generally good, but complaints of inattention and incivility are sometimes made. It is fair to remember that the constant pressure of a crowd of hungry and impatient guests must try to the very utmost the patience and activity of the entire household. Travellers not on foot should bring cloaks with them, as the cold is often intense; and the thermometer marking  $76^{\circ}$  in Lucerne at midday, was  $37^{\circ}$  on the Rigi at sunset, and  $31^{\circ}$  at sunrise. The house is warmed with stoves even in summer. The following notice is hung up in every room:—"On avertit MM. les étrangers qu'il est défendu de prendre les couvertures de lit pour sortir au sommet;" a threat which seems more likely to have suggested than prevented the commission of so comfortable an offence. In 1855 the landlord paid for a piece of ground on which the new building stands (96 ft. by

55 ft.), no less than 54,000 fr., or more than 2000*l.* to the canton.

During the height of summer, when travellers are most numerous, the *Kulm* inn is crammed to overflowing every evening; numbers are turned away from the doors, and it is not easy to procure beds, food, or even attention. In the evening the guests are collected at a *table-d'hôte* supper; after which most persons are glad to repair to rest. It takes some time, however, before the hubbub of voices and the trampling of feet subside; and, not unfrequently, a few roystering German students prolong their potations and noise far into the night. The beds, besides, are not very inviting to repose; and are often damp, though of the thousands who annually visit the Rigi none ever appear to suffer from it. Whether the inmate have slept or not, he, together with the whole household, is roused about an hour before sunrise by the grating sounds of a long wooden horn, which is played until every particle of sleep is dispelled from the household. Then commences a general stir and commotion, and everybody hastens out with shivering limbs and half-open eyes to gaze at the glorious prospect of a sunrise from the Rigi. Fortunate are they for whom the view is not marred by clouds and rain, a very common occurrence, as the leaves of the *Album* kept in the inn will testify. Indeed the following verses describe the fate of a large majority of those who make this expedition:—

Nine weary uphill miles we sped,  
The setting sun to see;  
Sulky and grim he went to bed,  
Sulky and grim went we.

Seven sleepless hours we tossed, and then,  
The rising sun to see,  
Sulky and grim we rose again,  
Sulky and grim rose he.

Long before dawn an assemblage of between 200 and 300 persons is often collected on the Rigi Culm, awaiting the sunrise, to enjoy this magnificent prospect in the cold. A glare of light in the E., which gradually dims the flickering of the stars,

is the first token of the morning; it soon becomes a streak of gold along the horizon, and is reflected in a pale pink tint upon the snows of the Bernese Alps. Summit after summit slowly catches the same golden hue; the dark space between the horizon and the Rigi is next illuminated; forests, lakes, hills, rivers, towns and villages, gradually become revealed, but look cold and indistinct until the red orb surmounts the mountain top, and darts his beams across the landscape. The shadows are then rolled back, as it were, and in a few moments the whole scene around is glowing in sunshine. The view is best seen during the quarter of an hour preceding and following the first appearance of the sun; after that the mists begin to curl up, and usually shroud parts of it from the eye.

The most striking portion of this wonderful panorama, which is said to extend over a circumference of 300 m., is undoubtedly the lakes of Lucerne and Zug; the branching arms of the former extend in so many different directions as to bewilder one at first, and both lave the base of the mountain so closely that the spectator might fancy himself suspended in the air above them, as in a balloon, and think, by one step from the brow of the precipice, to plunge into them. The peculiar greenish blue tint which sheets of water assume when seen from a height has also something exceedingly beautiful. Eight other lakes may be seen from the Rigi, but they are so small and distant as to "look like pools; some almost like water spilt upon the earth."

*On the N. side* the eye looks down into the lake of Zug, and the streets of Arth; at the end of the lake the town of Zug, and behind it the spire of the Ch. of Kappel, where Zwingli, the Reformer, fell in battle. This is backed by the chain of the Albis, and through gaps in its ridge may be discerned a few of the houses of the town of Zürich, and two little bits of its lake. Over the l. shoulder of the Rossberg a peep is obtained into the

lake of Egeri, on whose shores the Swiss gained the victory of Morgarten. The N. horizon is bounded by the range of the Black Forest hills.

The prospect *on the W.* is more open and map-like, and therefore less interesting. Close under the Rigi lie Tell's chapel, on the spot where he shot Gessler, and the village and bay of Küssnacht. Farther off, nearly the whole canton of Lucerne expands to view;—the Reuss winding through the midst of it. Above the Reuss is the lake of Sempach, the scene of another triumph of Swiss valour. Lucerne, with its coronet of towers, is distinctly seen at the W. end of the lake, and on the l. of it rises the gloomy Pilatus, cutting the sky with its serrated ridge. The remainder of the W. horizon is occupied by the chain of the Jura.

*On the S.* the mass of the Rigi forms the foreground, and touching the opposite mountains of Unterwalden, only allows here and there a small portion of the lake of Lucerne to be seen. On this side the objects visible in succession, from rt. to l., are the lakes of Alpnach and Sarnen, buried in woods, by the side of which runs the road to the Brünig; the mountains called Stanzer and Buochserhorn, and behind them the magnificent white chain of the high Alps of Berne, Unterwalden, and Uri, in one unbroken ridge of peaks and glaciers, including the Jungfrau, Eiger, Finster Aarhorn, the Titlis (the highest peak in Unterwalden), the Uri Rothstock, and the Bristenstock, between which and the Seelisberg runs the road of St. Gothard.

*On the E.* the Alpine chain continues to stretch uninterruptedly along the horizon, and includes the pre-eminent peaks of the Dödi, on the borders of the Grisons, of the Glärnisch, in canton Glarus, and of the Sentis, in Appenzell. In the middle distance, above the lake of Löwertz, lies the town of Schwytz, the cradle of Swiss freedom, backed by the two singular sharp peaks called, from their shape, the Mitres (Mythen). Above them peers the craggy crest of the Glärnisch; and

to the rt. of them is the opening of the Muotta Thal, famous for the bloody conflicts between Suwarrow and Massena, where armies manœuvred and fought on spots which before the shepherd and chamois hunter alone used to tread. Farther to the l. rises the mass of the Rossberg,—the nearest mountain neighbour of the Rigi. The whole scene of desolation caused by its fall (see Rte. 17); the chasm on the top, whence the ruin came; the course of the terrific avalanche of stones, diverging and spreading in their descent; the lake of Lowertz, partly filled up by it, and the pools and puddles caused in the valley by the stoppage of the watercourses, are at once displayed in a bird's-eye view.

The very distant bare peak seen above the top of the Rossberg is the Sentis.

*The Spectre of the Rigi* is an atmospheric phenomenon not unfrequently observed on the tops of high mountains. It occurs when the cloudy vapours happen to rise perpendicularly from the valley beneath the mountain, on the side opposite to the sun, without enveloping the summit of the Rigi itself. Under these circumstances the shadows of the Rigi Kulm and of any person standing on the top are cast upon the wall of mist in greatly magnified proportions. The shadow is encircled by a halo, assuming the prismatic colours of the rainbow, and this sometimes doubled when the mist is thick.

Two melancholy accidents have occurred on the top of the Rigi:—in 1820 a guide who had attended an English family was struck dead by lightning as he stood watching the clouds: in 1826 a Prussian officer, who had reached the summit, accompanied by his wife and children, fell from a very dangerous seat which he had selected on the brow of a precipice (the only spot where the summit is really a precipice), and was dashed to pieces at the bottom. According to another account, the miserable man threw himself off, having previously announced his intention of committing suicide to his wife, who

summoned the guide to arrest him, but, after a severe struggle, her husband got loose, and effected his purpose.

ROUTE 16.

ZÜRICH TO LUCERNE, OVER THE ALBIS, OR BY RAILWAY.

The direct Rly. from Zürich to Zug and Lucerne (4 trains daily in 3 hrs.) opened 1864.

Stations.	Eng. m.
Bonstetten . . . . .	
Affoltern . . . . .	
Mettmanshausen . . . . .	
Zug . . . . .	
Cham . . . . .	
Rothkreutz . . . . .	
Sisikon . . . . .	
Ebkon . . . . .	
Lucerne . . . . .	

In fine weather it is worth while to take the carriage-road over the *Albis* for the sake of the very beautiful view of the chain of the Alps, and of a large part of Switzerland, which is seen from its summit. The distance is about 38 m., and the diligence takes more than 6 hrs. to accomplish it. The road skirts the shore of the lake at first, but at Adliswyl, 4½ m. it crosses the river Sihl, and soon after in numerous zigzags begins to ascend to 4 m. *Ober-Albis*. Inn: Hirsch, which affords moderate accommodation and a magnificent prospect. The best point, however, for seeing the view, is the *Signal* (Hochwacht, called also Schnabel), a height off the road, about a mile above the inn: it takes in nearly the whole of the Zürichsee. At the foot of the mountain, between it and the lake, the vale of the Sihl intervenes. Its wooded slopes we

the favourite retreat of the pastoral poet Gessner; they were occupied in 1799 by two hostile armies—that of the French under Massena, who encamped on the slope of the Albis, and that of the Russians, who occupied the rt. bank of the Sihl. They watched each other from hence for more than 3 months; until Massena, by a masterly movement, crossed the Limmat, cut off part of the Russian force, and compelled the rest to a hasty retreat. On the W. are seen the little lake of Türl, the bath at Wengi, near Aengst, and at a distance of 10 miles the beautiful convent of Muri in Argovie. Not far from the lake is the church of Kappel, where Zwingli died; farther off the lake of Zug, and behind it tower the Rigi and Pilatus mountains, disclosing between them a little bit of the lake of Lucerne. The grandest feature, however, of the view is the snowy chain of the Alps, from the Sentis to the Jungfrau, which fills up the horizon. It has been engraved by Keller.

In posting you must take an extra horse (*renfort*) either from Zürich or Zug up to the summit; 1 post is charged. The greatest height which the road attains is 2404 ft. above the sea, 1000 ft. above Zürich lake, after which it descends, passing on the rt. the little lake of Türl.

The road is carried along the W. slope of the Albis, from its summit to Hausen, near which village is 3 m. *Albisbrunn*, a large and handsome water-cure establishment, in which travellers in general are also received at the rate of 5 fr. a day, board and lodging. It is a pleasant residence from the beauties of its situation, its views of the Bernese Alps, and the salubrity of its air and water. It is under the management of Dr. Brunner.

Beyond Hausen the road passes 1 m. *Kappel*, a village of 600 Inhab., which has obtained a woful celebrity in Swiss history as the spot where the Confederates, embittered against each other by religious discord, dyed their hands in the blood of one another, and where Zwingli the reformer fell, Oct. 11th, 1531. Many of the best and bravest of the

citizens of Zürich perished on that day of civil broil. Zwingli, who, in accordance with the custom of the time and country, attended his flock to the field of battle, to afford them spiritual aid and consolation, was struck down in the fight, and found by a soldier of Unterwalden, who did not know him, but who, ascertaining that he refused to call on the Virgin and saints, despatched him with his sword. His body, when recognised by his foes, was burnt by the common hangman. A monument, consisting of a rough massive block of stone by the road-side, has taken the place of the tree which marked the spot where he fell. The *Gothic church* of Kappel, anciently attached to a convent suppressed soon after the commencement of the Reformation, was built in 1280.

In descending from Ober-Albis, Zug may be avoided altogether, and the shorter road by *Knonau* taken.

The *Rlwy.* from Zürich (4 trains daily in 1½ to 2½ hrs.) quits the line to Olten at Altstetten Junct Stat., after crossing the Sihl. Beyond Bonstetten Stat. it penetrates a tunnel. Near Affoltern Stat. l. lies the Lake of Türl (see above). The stream of the Lorze, descending from the Lake of Egeri, is crossed before reaching

4½ m. Zug Stat. (Rte. 15). Passengers for the Rigi may here take the steamer to Arth.

The Rly. to Lucerne skirts the N. shore of the Lake of Zug, by

*Cham Stat.* (*Inn*: Rabe). At Rothkreutz the rlwy. enters the valley of the Reuss, which is crossed by a long iron bridge beyond

*Ebikon Stat.*

LUCERNE *Terminus* on the S. bank of the Reuss, near the Capellbrücke.

*Lucerne* (Luzern). *Inns*: Luzerner Hof, one of the very best; H. des Suisses (Schweizer Hof); \*Englischer Hof—all good; views from the windows of both superb;—H. du Rigi, comfortable, enlarged;—Schwann, a really good house and civil people. These 5 Inns face the lake, and are near the steamers. Balances (Waage), good; cheap; en pension, 5 fr. a day; good

LUCERNE.

Tavel wine. As the principal hotels are sometimes full, it may be useful to give a list of the second-rate houses, arranged as far as known in the order of merit—Rössli, Adler, Hirsch, Möhren, Krone, Kreuz, Wilder Mann. In and about Lucerne are many *Pensions*—Worley's English Boarding-house, clean and comfortable. Pension Morel, comfortable; Müller's Hôtel et Pension Seeburg, half an hour's walk from the town, fine views; Kaufmann's and Damman's Pensions are also well spoken of.

Lucerne, chief town of the canton, lies at the N.W. extremity of the lake of Lucerne, and is divided into two parts by the river Reuss, which here issues out of it. Its population is about 11,600, all Roman Catholics, except about 680 Protestants. Lucerne is the residence of the Papal Nuncio.

It is not a place of any considerable trade or manufactures, but their absence is more than compensated by the exquisitely beautiful scenery in which it is situated on the borders of the finest and most interesting of the Swiss lakes, between the giants Pilatus and Rigi, and in sight of the snowy Alps of Schwytz and Engelberg. The town is still surrounded on the land side by a long wall, with numerous picturesque watch-towers, erected in 1385; but its chief peculiarity is its bridges. The lowest, or *Mill-bridge*, is hung with paintings, nearly washed out, of the Dance of Death: the second or *Reuss-brücke*, is the only one uncovered and passable for carriages; the upper, or *Kapellbrücke*, a cool and shady walk in a hot day, runs in a slanting direction across the mouth of the Reuss, whose clear and pellucid sea-green waters may here be surveyed to great advantage, as they rush beneath it with the swiftness of a mountain torrent. Against the timbers supporting the roof of this bridge are suspended 77 pictures; those seen in crossing from the rt. to the l. bank represent the life and acts of St. Leger and St. Maurice, Lucerne's patron saints. The subjects of those seen in the opposite direction are taken from Swiss history, and are not without some merit, but, being lighted only

by the glare reflected upwards from the water, are not easily distinguished. Near the middle of the *Kapell-brücke*, rising out of the water, stands a very picturesque watch-tower, called *Wasserthurm*, forming a link of the old fortifications of the town. It is said to have once served as a light-house (*Lucerna*) to boats, and hence some have derived the present name of Lucerne. The *Hofbrücke*, the longest of all the bridges, was entirely removed, 1852: the intervening space between it and the shore having been filled up. The Hôtel des Suisses and Swan and a fine row of houses stand on this space, which is also the landing-place of the steamboats.

In churches and other public buildings Lucerne has no very prominent objects. The church of *St. Leger*, also called *Hof- or Stiftskirche*, is modern, except the two towers, which date from 1506. The bells in it are fine. The adjoining churchyard is filled with quaint old monuments, and the view from the cloister windows is fine.

*Post and Telegraph-office*, on the l. bank of the Reuss, near the Jesuits' ch.

The old *Arsenal* (*Zeughaus*), near the gate leading to Berne, is one of those venerable repositories common to the chief towns of all the cantons, in which are deposited the muskets, artillery, &c., for arming their contingents of troops. It contains some rusty suits of ancient armour, and several historical relics and trophies of Swiss valour, such as the yellow Austrian banner, and many pennons of knights and nobles, taken at the battle of Sempach; the coat of mail stripped from the body of Duke Leopold of Austria, who fell there: the iron cravat, lined with sharp spikes, destined for the neck of Gundoldingen, the Schultheiss and general of the men of Lucerne, who died in the hour of victory. Two Turkish flags were captured at the battle of Lepanto, and a long Moorish standard was brought from Tunis, 1640, by a knight of Malta, who was a native of Lucerne.

An excellent collection of Swiss birds and quadrupeds, extremely well mounted,





has been formed by a Mr. Stauffer, and is exhibited near to Thorwaldsen's Lion. It is probably, after that of Berne, the most complete collection of the kind to be seen in Switzerland: charge, 1 fr. each person.

*General Pfyster's model* (in relief) of a part of Switzerland may interest those who desire to trace on it their past or future wanderings. It is placed in a well-lighted room near the *Englischer Hof*. 1 fr. admission.

The *Gothic Fountains*, which are to be observed in all parts of Switzerland, are here of singular beauty and originality.

The *English Church service* is performed every Sunday in the English ch. near the *Schweitzer Hof*.

Müller is a good chemist.

Physician, Dr. Stieger: speaks English, and is attentive to his patients.

At Eglin Brothers, in the *Kapel Strasse*, books, prints, panoramas, and maps relating to Switzerland may be had.

The most interesting of the *sights* of Lucerne is, without doubt, the \**Monument to the memory of the Swiss Guards*, who fell while defending the Royal Family of France in one of the bloody massacres of the first French Revolution, August 10, 1792. It is situated in a garden, a little way beyond St. Leger's ch. on the Zürich road. The design is by Thorwaldsen, executed by Ahorn, a sculptor of Constance. It represents a lion of colossal size, wounded to death, with a spear sticking in his side, yet endeavouring in his last gasp to protect from injury a shield bearing the fleur-de-lis of the Bourbons, which he holds in his paws. The figure, hewn out of the living sandstone rock, is 28 ft. long and 18 high, and whether as a tribute to fallen valour, or as a work of art, of admirable design and no mean execution, it merits the highest praise. It is the most appropriate monument in Europe. Beneath it are carved the names of the officers who fell in defending the Tuileries, Aug. 10 and Sept. 2 and 3, 1792. The loyalty and fidelity of this brave band, who, at the sacrifice of their

own lives, protected Louis and his family when deserted by their natural defenders, almost make us forget that they were mercenaries. There is a quiet solitude and shade about the spot which is particularly pleasing and refreshing. The rocks around are mantled with fern and creepers, forming a natural framework to the monument; and a streamlet of clear water, trickling down from the top of the rock, is received into a basin-shaped hollow below it, forming a mirror in which the sculpture is reflected. One of the very few survivors of the Swiss Guard, dressed in its red uniform, acts as guardian of the monument, and cicerone to the stranger. The cloth for the altar of the little chapel adjoining was embroidered expressly for it by the late Duchess d'Angoulême.

There are many pretty *walks* and *points of view* near Lucerne; one of the most interesting is to the Lime-tree, under which is a dial pointing to the mountains on the horizon; another is the villa called *Allenwinden*, perched on the top of the hill outside the Weggis gate, from which it may be reached in a walk of 15 minutes, by a path winding up the hill outside the town walls. The *Gütchi*, close to the town, and Gibraltar, both on the S. side of the Reuss, are also points which command a fine prospect.

At Krien,  $\frac{3}{4}$  h. S.W. of Lucerne, are ironworks, and a silk manufacture. The castle of Schaunsee crowns a hill behind it.

*Steamers* several times a day to Fluelen and the other villages on the lake. (Rte. 18.) From Fluelen diligences proceed over the St. Gotthard. Travellers book from Lucerne. *Steamers* to Alpnach-Gestad, on the way to the Brünig; and to Beckenried, on the way to Engelberg.

*Railways* to Basle, Berne, Zug, and Zürich.

*Excursions*.—The Rigi summit may be reached in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Lucerne—by steamer to Weggis,  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. thence to the summit on foot or on horse.

No one should leave Lucerne without exploring the beauties of its *Lake*

(Rte. 18)—called in German Vierwaldstädter See—the grandest in Europe in point of scenery, particularly the farther end of it, called the bay of Uri; and much additional pleasure will be derived if the traveller who understands German will take Schiller's 'Wilhelm Tell' as a pocket companion, in which admirable poem so many of the scenes are localized. Short excursions may with advantage be made in a row-boat; but the E. end of the lake, and especially the bay of Uri, being exposed to sudden gusts of wind, may best be visited from Lucerne in the steamer, or by road.

Those who intend to traverse the lake, and visit the Rigi, and to return afterwards to Lucerne, should combine the two expeditions, which may be effected in two days, *thus*—go to Küssnacht or to Arth and ascend from Goldau, descending next day on the opposite side, and embarking on the lake, either at Weggis or Gersau, pass up the bay of Uri, and by Tell's chapel, returning by water to Lucerne the 2nd evening.

**\*\*Mount Pilate.** This most interesting and recompensing ascent can now be easily accomplished even by ladies. There are 2 good *Inns* near the top, one on each side of the highest ridge,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Lucerne to top, but no mule-path connects them; the excellent paths that reach up to the ridge, from Hergiswyl on the N., Alpnach on the S., are separated by 40 feet of ladder, which the jealousies of rival inns seem to maintain as a barrier. The views from *Pilatus'* summit are even finer than those from the Rigi, especially over the Alpine chain. It has altogether 7 summits, exceedingly rugged and precipitous; but pre-eminence is accorded to the Widderfeld. The road to the Brunig passes by *Hergiswyl* (*Inn*: \*Rössli), which is reached by steamer, or row-boat, in 2 hrs., or carriage in  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Here horses may be procured. A bridle-path, made at an expense of 1000*l.*, leads first through orchards and meadows, and then along the N. side of the mountain, in about 4 hrs. to the Joch or col,

6287 ft., connecting the Klimsenhorn with the Oberhaupt. Here is built the

*Hôtel of the Klimsenhorn* (2 houses belonging to the same landlord, with a chapel attached). Extensive view from the Klimsenhorn, 10 min. walk from the inn. A well-made zigzag path leads onwards to the foot of the Oberhaupt (40 min. walk), where it stops, for the ridge itself cannot be climbed over. It is, however, bored through by a nearly vertical fissure about 40 ft. deep, called the *Krisiloch*, in which a commodious ladder, or rather rude staircase, is placed. On surmounting this the traveller emerges on one of the peaks, from which the whole range of the Bernese mountains suddenly burst upon him, having been previously concealed by the mountain. There are few more striking scenes in all Switzerland. A descent of 5 min. by an excellent path leads to the *Bellevue Hotel*, 6961 ft., very comfortable, a small library of books, built on the depression between the Oberhaupt and the Esel. The view from the Esel, 10 m. above the hotel, is the finest of those accessible by paths. A well-made mule-path leads from the Bellevue Hotel to Alpnach. It has even been used as a char-road.

Unfortunately Pilatus is very subject to clouds, otherwise the mountain is far more interesting than the Rigi, and the view from it in some respects finer, though a less complete panorama, and the grandeur of its own serrated outline, which forms so important a feature of the Rigi view, is of course wanting. The peaks best seen are the Wetterhorn, Viescherhörner, Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau; the Lake of Lucerne lies open as far as Brunnen.

According to a wild tradition of considerable antiquity, this mountain derives its name from Pilate, the wicked governor of Judæa, who, having been banished to Gaul by Tiberius, wandered about among the mountains, stricken by conscience, until he ended his miserable existence by throwing himself into a lake on the top of the Pilatus. The moun-

tain, in consequence, labours under a very bad reputation. From its position as an outlier, or advanced guard of the chain of the Alps, it collects the clouds which float over the plains from the W. and N.; and it is remarked that almost all the storms which burst upon the lake of Lucerne gather and brew on its summit. This almost perpetual assembling of clouds was long attributed by the superstitious to the unquiet spirit still hovering round the sunken body, which, when disturbed by any intruder, revenged itself by sending storms, and darkness, and hail on the surrounding district. So prevalent was the belief in this superstition, even down to times comparatively recent, that the government of Lucerne forbade the ascent of the mountain, and the naturalist Conrad Gessner, in 1555, was obliged to provide himself with a special order, removing the interdict in his case, to enable him to carry on his researches upon the mountain.

According to some, the name Pilatus is only a corruption of *Pileatus* (capped), arising from the cap of clouds which rarely quits its barren brow, and which are sometimes seen rising from it like steam from a caldron. The peasants profess to be able to foretell the weather from the appearance of the clouds on the top, and have a saying,—

“Wenn Pilatus trägt sein Hut  
Dann wird das Wetter gut.  
Trägt er aber einen Degen,  
So glebt's wohl sicher Regen.”

The mountain consists, from its base to its summit, of nummulite limestone and sandstone; the strata incline to the S., and abound in fossil remains, especially near the summit, around the Bründlis Alp and the Castelen Alp.

## ROUTE 17.

### LUCERNE TO SCHWYTZ—THE FALL OF THE ROSSBERG.

	Leagues.	Eng. m.
Lucerne.		
Küssnacht . . .	2½	= 7½
Arth . . .	1½	= 5½
Schwytz . . .	2½	= 8½
	7	21

(See Map.)

A good post-road to Schwytz. *Diligence* starts from Küssnacht; passengers booked on board the steamers.

Schwytz may also be reached rather more quickly by steaming to Brunnen.

The road to Küssnacht runs nearly all the way in sight of the lake of Lucerne, and of the Alps of Engelberg and Berne beyond. On a headland at the angle of the green bay of Küssnacht, stands the ruined *castle* of New Habsburg, destroyed, 1352, by the Lucerners.

*Küssnacht—Inns*: H. du Lac; Hirsch; Rössli. The road from Küssnacht to Immensee lies through the *Hollow Way*, and on the rt. a ruined wall is pointed out which goes by the name of *Gessler's Castle*. The *Hollow Way* (Hohle Gasse) is a narrow green lane, overhung with trees growing from the high banks on each side. Here Tell, after escaping from Gessler's boat on the lake of Lucerne, lay in wait for his enemy, and shot him as he passed, from behind a tree, with his unerring arrow. It is somewhat unlucky that researches into the archives of Küssnacht have clearly

proved that the ruin called Gessler's Castle never belonged to him. The "Hollow Way" has been much filled up in making the new road.

On emerging from the Hollow Way *Tell's Chapel* is seen by the roadside. By a singular anomaly a place of worship, originally dedicated to "The Fourteen Helpers in Need" (Our Saviour, the Virgin, and Apostles), now commemorates a deed of blood, which tradition, and its supposed connection with the origin of Swiss liberty, appear to have sanctified in the eyes of the people, so that mass is periodically said in it, while it is kept in constant repair, and bears on its outer wall a fresco representing Gessler's death.

*Innensee.* Comfortable little Inn. The road now skirts the lake of Zug (Rte. 15), or the tourist may take the steamer to *Arth*; and 2 m. farther is

*Goldau—Inn*: Rössli (Cheval Blanc); good, civil people.

#### FALL OF THE ROSSBERG.

"Mountains have fallen,  
Leaving a gap in the clouds, and with the  
shock  
Rocking their Alpine brethren; filling up  
The ripe green valleys with destruction's  
splinters,  
Damming the rivers with a sudden dash,  
Which crushed the waters into mist, and made  
Their fountains find another channel—thus,  
Thus, in its old age, did Mount Rosenberg."  
*Byron.*

On approaching Goldau the traveller may perceive traces of the dreadful catastrophe which buried the original and much larger village of that name, and inundated the valley for a considerable distance with a deluge of stones and rubbish. The mountain which caused this calamity still remains scarred from top to bottom: and nothing grows upon its barren surface; but in the course of years the valley itself has in many places become green, and the fallen rocks bear trees, lichens, and vegetation, and the great similarity to mountain valleys in general shows how often in past ages such catastrophes must have happened, though no record of them has been preserved.

The Rossberg, or Ruffberg, is a mountain 4958 ft. high; the upper part of it consists of a conglomerate or pudding-stone, formed of rounded masses of other rocks cemented together, and called by the Germans *Nagelflue*, or Nail-rock, from the knobs and protuberances which its surface presents, resembling nail-heads. From the nature of the structure of this kind of rock, it is very liable to become cracked, and if rain-water or springs penetrate these fissures they will not fail to dissolve or moisten the unctuous beds of clay which separate the *nagelflue* from the strata below it, and cause large portions of it to detach themselves from the mass. The strata of the Rossberg are tilted up from the side of the lake of Zug, and slope down towards Goldau like the roof of a house. The slanting direction of the seams which part the strata is well seen on the road from *Arth*. If, therefore, the clay which fills these seams be washed out by rains, or reduced to the state of a viscous or slimy mud, it is evident that such portions of the rock as have been detached from the rest by the fissures above alluded to, must slip down, like the masses of snow which fall from the roof of a house as soon as the lower side is thawed, or as a vessel when launched slides down the inclined plane purposely greased to hasten its descent. Within the period of human records destructive landslips had repeatedly fallen from the Rossberg, and a great part of the piles of earth, rock, and stones, which deform the face of the valley, derive their origin from such catastrophes of ancient date; but the most destructive of all appears to have been the last. The vacant space along the top of the mountain caused by the descent of a portion of it, calculated to have been a league long, 1000 ft. broad, and 100 ft. thick, and a small fragment at its farther extremity, which remained when the rest broke off, are also very apparent, and assist in telling the story. The long and wide inclined plane forming the side of the mountain, now ploughed up

and scarified as it were, was previously covered with fields, woods, and houses. Some of the buildings are still standing within a few yards of the precipice which marks the line of the fracture.

The catastrophe is thus described in the narrative published at the time by Dr. Zay, of Arth, an eye-witness:—

“The summer of 1806 had been very rainy, and on the 1st and 2nd September it rained incessantly. New crevices were observed in the flank of the mountain, a sort of cracking noise was heard internally, stones started out of the ground, detached fragments of rocks rolled down the mountain; at two o'clock in the afternoon of the 2nd of September, a large rock became loose, and in falling raised a cloud of black dust. Toward the lower part of the mountain, the ground seemed pressed down from above; and when a stick or a spade was driven in, it moved of itself. A man, who had been digging in his garden, ran away from fright at these extraordinary appearances; soon a fissure, larger than all the others, was observed; insensibly it increased; springs of water ceased all at once to flow; the pine-trees of the forest absolutely reeled; birds flew away screaming. A few minutes before five o'clock the symptoms of some mighty catastrophe became still stronger; the whole surface of the mountain seemed to glide down, but so slowly as to afford time to the inhabitants to go away. An old man, who had often predicted some such disaster, was quietly smoking his pipe when told by a young man, running by, that the mountain was in the act of falling; he rose and looked out, but came into his house again, saying he had time to fill another pipe. The young man, continuing to fly, was thrown down several times, and escaped with difficulty; looking back, he saw the house carried off all at once.

“Another inhabitant, being alarmed, took two of his children and ran away with them, calling to his wife to fol-

low with the third; but she went in for another, who still remained (Marianne, aged five): just then, Francisca Ulrich, their servant, was crossing the room, with this Marianne, whom she held by the hand, and saw her mistress; at that instant, as Francisca afterwards said, ‘The house appeared to be torn from its foundation (it was of wood), and spun round and round like a tetotum; I was sometimes on my head, sometimes on my feet, in total darkness, and violently separated from the child.’ When the motion stopped, she found herself jammed in on all sides, with her head downwards, much bruised, and in extreme pain. She supposed she was buried alive at a great depth; with much difficulty she disengaged her right hand, and wiped the blood from her eyes. Presently she heard the faint moans of Marianne, and called to her by her name; the child answered that she was on her back among stones and bushes, which held her fast, but that her hands were free, and that she saw the light, and even something green. She asked whether people would not soon come to take them out. Francisca answered that it was the day of judgment, and that no one was left to help them; but that they would be released by death, and be happy in heaven. They prayed together. At last Francisca’s ear was struck by the sound of a bell, which she knew to be that of Steinenberg: then seven o'clock struck in another village, and she began to hope there were still living beings, and endeavoured to comfort the child. The poor little girl was at first clamorous for her supper, but her cries soon became fainter, and at last quite died away. Francisca, still with her head downwards, and surrounded with damp earth, experienced a sense of cold in her feet almost insupportable. After prodigious efforts she succeeded in disengaging her legs, and thinks this saved her life. Many hours had passed in this situation, when she again heard the voice of Marianne, who had been asleep, and now renewed her lamentations. In

the mean time the unfortunate father, who, with much difficulty, had saved himself and two children, wandered about till daylight, when he came among the ruins to look for the rest of his family. He soon discovered his wife, by a foot which appeared above ground: she was dead, with a child in her arms. His cries, and the noise he made in digging, were heard by Marianne, who called out. She was extricated with a broken thigh, and, saying that Francisca was not far off, a farther search led to her release also; but in such a state that her life was despaired of: she was blind for some days, and remained subject to convulsive fits of terror. It appeared that the house, or themselves at least, had been carried down about 1500 feet from where it stood before.

“In another place, a child two years old was found unhurt, lying on its straw mattress upon the mud, without any vestige of the house from which he had been separated. Such a mass of earth and stones rushed at once into the lake of Lowertz, although 5 m. distant, that one end of it was filled up, and a prodigious wave passing completely over the island of Schwanau, 70 feet above the usual level of the water, overwhelmed the opposite shore, and, as it returned, swept away into the lake many houses with their inhabitants. The village of Seewen, situated at the farther end, was inundated, and some houses washed away; and the flood carried live fish into the village of Steinen. The chapel of Olten, built of wood, was found half a league from the place it had previously occupied, and many large blocks of stone completely changed their position.

“The most considerable of the villages overwhelmed in the vale of Arth was Goldau, and its name is now affixed to the whole melancholy story and place. I shall relate only one more incident:—A party of eleven travellers from Berne, belonging to the most distinguished families there, arrived at Arth on the 2nd of September, and set off on foot for the Rigi a few minutes before the catastrophe. Seven of them had got about 200

yards a-head,—the other four saw them entering the village of Goldau; and one of the latter, Mr. R. Jenner, pointing out to the rest the summit of the Rossberg (full 4 m. off in a straight line), where some strange commotion seemed taking place, which they themselves (the four behind) were observing with a telescope, and had entered into conversation on the subject with some strangers just come up; when, all at once, a flight of stones, like cannon-balls, traversed the air above their heads; a cloud of dust obscured the valley; a frightful noise was heard. They fled! As soon as the obscurity was so far dissipated as to make objects discernible, they sought their friends; but the village of Goldau had disappeared under a heap of stones and rubbish 100 feet in height, and the whole valley presented nothing but a perfect chaos! Of the unfortunate survivors, one lost a wife to whom he was just married, one a son, a third the two pupils under his care: all researches to discover their remains were, and have ever since been fruitless. Nothing is left of Goldau but the bell which hung in its steeple, and which was found about a mile off. With the rocks torrents of mud came down, acting as rollers; but they took a different direction when in the valley, the mud following the slope of the ground towards the lake of Lowertz, while the rocks, preserving a straight course, glanced across the valley towards the Rigi. The rocks above, moving much faster than those near the ground, went farther, and ascended even a great way up the Rigi; its base is covered with large blocks carried to an incredible height, and by which trees were mowed down, as they might have been by cannon.

“A long track of ruins, like a scarf, hangs from the shoulder of the Rossberg, in hideous barrenness, over the rich dress of shaggy woods and green pastures, and grows wider and wider down to the lake of Lowertz and of the Rigi, a distance of 4 or 5 m. Its greatest breadth may be 3 m., and the triangular area of ruins is fully



equal to that of Paris, taken at the external boulevards, or about double the real extent of the inhabited city. I notice, however, that the portion of the strata at the top of the Rossberg, which slid down into the valley, is certainly less than the chaotic accumulation below; and I have no doubt that a considerable part of it comes from the soil of the valley itself, ploughed up and thrown into ridges like the waves of the sea, and hurled to prodigious distances by the impulse of the descending mass, plunging upon it with a force not very inferior to that of a cannon-ball."

The effects of this terrible convulsion were the entire destruction of the villages Goldau, Bussingen, and Rothern, and a part of Lowertz; the rich pasturages in the valley and on the slope of the mountain, entirely overwhelmed by it and ruined, were estimated to be worth 150,000*l.*; 111 houses, and more than 200 stables and *châlets*, were buried under the débris of rocks, which of themselves form hills several hundred feet high. More than 450 human beings perished by this catastrophe, and whole herds of cattle were swept away. Five minutes sufficed to complete the work of destruction. The inhabitants of the neighbouring towns and villages were first roused by loud and grating sounds like thunder: they looked towards the spot from which it came, and beheld the valley shrouded in a cloud of dust; when it had cleared away, they found the face of nature changed. The houses of Goldau were literally crushed beneath the weight of superincumbent masses. Lowertz was overwhelmed by a torrent of mud.

The danger of further calamity from the fall of other portions of the mountain is by no means past, even now. On July 3rd, 1823, a shepherd boy climbed up to the peak of the Rossberg, called Spitzbühel, to gather herbs. In crossing over towards Zug he came to a fissure, which he leaped across; but on his return he found it so much widened, that he could not venture to repeat his jump, and was obliged to make a circuit to reach

home. By the 6th of July the rent had increased to a width of 40 or 50 feet, and to the depth of nearly twice that number of feet. Great apprehensions were entertained lest the mass thus separated should in falling take the direction of the Inn and Church of Goldau: however, on the 11th, after the crack had widened to 150 ft., with a depth of 120, and a length of 200, down came the huge fragment; it was shattered to pieces in its fall, and threw up the waters of the lake of Lowertz 5 ft., but did no damage.

Those who desire a near view of the landslip should ascend the Gnypenstock, whose summit may be reached in 3 hours from Arth.

The church and one of the inns at Goldau stand on the site of the village overwhelmed by the Rossberg; its inhabitants, thus destroyed in the midst of security, are said to have been remarkable for the purity of their manners and their personal beauty. The church contains two tablets of black marble inscribed with the names of some of the sufferers, and with particulars of the sad event. The high-road traverses the talus or débris, which extends from the top of the Rossberg far up the Rigi on the rt. It ascends vast hillocks of rubbish, calculated to be 30 feet deep hereabouts; but near the centre of the valley probably 200 feet, and winds among enormous blocks of stone already beginning to be moss-grown, and with herbage springing up between them. Among these mounds and masses of rock numerous pools are enclosed, arising from springs dammed up by the fallen earth.

*Lowertz*, or *Lauerz*, standing on the margin of the lake round which our road is carried on a terraced embankment, lost its church and several of its houses in the same catastrophe. The lake was diminished by one quarter in consequence of the avalanche of mud and rubbish which entered it, and its waters were thrown up in a wave 70 feet high to the opposite bank, so as to cover the picturesque island, and sweep away a small chapel which stood upon it. The ruined *Castle of*



*Schwanau*, still existing upon it, has an historical interest from having been destroyed at the first rising of the Swiss Confederates in 1308, to avenge an outrage committed by the Seigneur, in carrying off a damsel against her will, and detaining her in confinement. "There is a wild and sombre tradition attached to this island, that 'once a year cries are heard to come from it, and suddenly the ghost of the tyrant is seen to pass, chased by the vengeful spirit of a pale girl, bearing a torch, and shrieking wildly. At first he eludes her swiftness; but at length she gains upon him, and forces him into the lake, where he sinks with doleful struggles; and, as the waves close over the condemned, the shores ring with fearful and unearthly yellings.'"

[Near the village of Lowertz another footpath strikes up the Rigi, which is shorter than going round by Goldau for travellers approaching from Schwytz or Brunnen. About 3 m. above Lowertz it falls into the path from Goldau. (Rte. 15.) The Rigi Kulm may be reached by it in 3 hours.]

*Seewen*—(Inn: Zum Kreutz)—a village at the E. extremity of the lake, is resorted to on account of its chalybeate springs. Baths, &c., have been established here. A direct road to Brunnen here turns to the rt.; it is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. shorter than that by Schwytz, but is not good.

*Schwytz*—(Inns: Rössli, clean and reasonable;—H. Hettinger; Pension Yütz, 10 min. walk, comfortable, and prettily situated)—is a mere village, though the chief place in the canton—"the heart's core of Helvetia"—from which comes the name Switzerland, and contains 5748 Inhab. (nearly all Roman Catholics, including the adjoining scattered houses and villages, which all belong to one parish. It lies picturesquely, about 3 m. from Brunnen (Rte. 18), its port on the lake of Lucerne, at the foot of the very conspicuous double-peaked mountain, called Mythen (Mitres), the loftiest of whose horns is 5860 feet above the sea; and they flank the summit of the Hacken Pass.

Adjoining the *Parish Church*, a modern building, finished in 1774, is a small Gothic chapel, called *Kerker*, erected, according to tradition, at a time when admission to the church was denied the people by a ban of excommunication from the Pope. It was built in great haste, half of it within three days, and the mass was secretly administered within it.

In the *Cemetery* of the parish church is the grave of Aloys Reding, the patriotic leader (Landeshauptman) of the Swiss against the French Republicans, in 1798. "Cujus nomen summa laus," says his epitaph.

The *Rathhaus*, a building of no great antiquity nor beauty, in which the Council of the canton holds its sittings, is decorated with portraits of 43 Landammans, and a carved ceiling.

The *Arsenal* contains banners taken by the Schwytzers at Morgarten, and others borne by them in the battles of Laupen, Sempach, Kappel, Morat, &c.; also a consecrated standard presented by Pope Julius II. to the Schwytzers.

The *Archiv* (record-office) is a tower of rough masonry several stories high, and was probably once a castle: its walls are remarkably thick, and beneath it are dungeons.

Schwytz possesses a Capuchin convent, and a Dominican nunnery, founded in 1287. A Jesuit convent and Ch., built 1847, on the hill, has never been occupied.

*Model* of the valley of Muotta, illustrating the French and Russian campaign at M. Schindler's.

*Diligences* to Lucerne, Zürich, Richterschwyl, Einsiedeln, St. Gall, and Glarus.

The Schwytzers first became known in Europe about the year 1200, in a dispute which the natives of this district had with the tenants of the monks of Einsiedeln. The holy Fathers, concealing from the Emperor the very existence of such a race as the men of Schwytz, had obtained from him a grant of their possessions, as waste and unoccupied lands. The Schwytzers, however, were able to maintain their own property by their

own swords, until at length the Emperor Frederick II. confirmed to them their rights.

The name Swiss (Schwytzer) was first given to the inhabitants of the three Forest cantons after the battle of Morgarten, their earliest victory, in which the men of Schwytz had taken the lead, and prominently distinguished themselves above the others.

At *Ibach*, a village on the Muotta (through which the road to Brunnen passes), may be seen the place of assemblage where the Cantons-Landes-Gemeinde—consisting of all the male citizens of the canton—formerly met in the open air to choose their magistrates, from the Landammans down to the lowest officer. Here they used to deliberate and vote on the affairs of the state, decide on peace or war, form alliances, or despatch embassies—a singular example of universal suffrage and the legislation of the masses. The business was opened by prayer, and by the whole assembly kneeling, and taking an oath faithfully to discharge their legislative duties. According to the Constitution of 1833, the General Assemblies of the canton are now held at Rothenthurn, on the road to Einsiedeln. At present the meeting of the Circle only is held here.

## ROUTE 18.

THE LAKE OF LUCERNE. LUCERNE TO FLUELEN. (*See Map, Rte. 16.*)

*Steamers* 5 times a day between Lucerne and Flüelen (26 Eng. m.)—to Weggis in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.—Beckenried in  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr.—Gersau in  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hr.—Brunnen, 2 hrs.—Flüelen in 3 hrs.—3 times a day to Alpnach; ditto to Küssnacht. *Fare*—1st class, 4 fr. 60, to Flüelen. Return-tickets for 3 days 6 fr. *Passengers* for Schwyz and for the St. Gotthard line are booked on board.

The scale of charges for conveying carriages, including embarking, is fixed by tariff in the *Indicateur*.

*Boats* may be hired at all the ports on the lake, and are convenient when the steamer's time is not suitable. The charges are fixed by tariff, which may be seen at the inns, but the men expect a *bonnemain*.

Much has been said of the dangers of the lake of Lucerne, arising from storms: sudden and tempestuous winds no doubt do sometimes occur; but the boatmen can always foresee the approach of a storm, and are very careful not to subject themselves to any risk. The clumsy flat-bottomed boats are only fit for the dead calm which generally prevails, and would be useless if there was often bad weather; yet instances of accidents are hardly known—either the boatmen will not stir out, or put into shore, which is always near, on the slightest appearance of bad weather. Those who trust themselves on the lake in boats should implicitly follow the advice of the boatmen, and not urge them to venture when disinclined, neither they nor their boats being fit for bad weather.

The *winds* on the lake are singularly capricious and variable, blowing at the same time from opposite quarters of the compass in different parts of it, so that the boatmen say that there is a new wind behind every promontory. The most violent is the S. wind, or *Föhn*, which occasionally rushes so furiously

down the bay of Uri as to prevent the progress of any row-boat, and renders it difficult for even a steamer to make headway. During fine weather, in summer, the north wind blows along the bay of Uri from ten to three or four, after which it dies away, and is succeeded by the S. wind. The boatmen, in coming from Lucerne, endeavour to reach Flüelen before the wind turns.

The *Lake of Lucerne*, or of the *Four Forest Cantons* (Vier-Waldstädter-See), so called from the cantons of Uri, Unterwalden, Schwytz, and Lucerne, which exclusively form its shores, is distinguished above every lake in Switzerland, and perhaps in Europe, by the beauty and sublime grandeur of its scenery. It is hardly less interesting from the historical recollections connected with it. Its shores are a classic region—the sanctuary of liberty; on them took place those memorable events which gave freedom to Switzerland—here the first Confederacy was formed; and, above all, its borders were the scene of the heroic deeds and signal vengeance of WILLIAM TELL, on which account they are sometimes called Tell's Country.

The lake lies at a height of 1406 ft. above the sea-level: it is of very irregular shape, assuming, near its W. extremity, the form of a cross. Its various bays, branching in different directions, are navigated by separate lines of steamers, and are each named after the chief town or village situated on them: thus the W. branch is properly the lake of Lucerne; then come the bays of Alpnach on the S., Küssnacht on the N., Buochs, stretching E. and W.; and lastly, the bay of Uri, running N. and S., entirely enclosed within the mountains of that canton.

Quitting Lucerne, the steamboat soon arrives abreast of a promontory on the l., called Meggenhorn, close off which lies a small island, the only one in the lake. A Frenchman, the Abbé Reynal, took upon himself to raise upon it a monument to the founder of Swiss liberty; it consisted of a wooden obelisk, painted to look

like granite, with Tell's apple and arrow on the top. This gingerbread memorial of vanity and bad taste was luckily destroyed by lightning. Thus far the shores of the lake are undulating hills, clothed with verdure, and dotted with houses and villas—a smiling scene to which the dark ridge of Pilatus adds a solitary feature of grandeur. After doubling the cape of the Meggenhorn, the bay of Küssnacht opens out on the l., that of Alpnach on the rt., and the traveller finds himself in the centre of the cross or transept (so to call it) of the lake. From this point Mount Pilate is seen to great advantage—clouds and darkness almost invariably rest upon his head, and his serrated ridge and gloomy sides have a sullen air in the midst of the sunny and cheerful landscape around. The superstitions connected with this mountain are mentioned in Rte. 16.

Looking up the bay of Küssnacht the ruined castle of Neu Habsburg is seen on the l. perched on a cliff; and, at the further extremity of the village of Küssnacht, a fort belonging to the counts of that name. The colossal mass of the Rigi occupies the other side of the bay. Its sides are girt with forests, below which runs a fringe of fields and gardens, dotted with cottages; while, above, it is clothed to its very summit with verdant pastures, feeding a hundred flocks;—an agreeable contrast to his opposite neighbour Pilate.

After weathering the promontory of Tanzenburg, a spur or buttress descending from the Rigi, the village of Weggis appears in sight: it is the usual port of embarkation for travellers returning from the Rigi, and may be reached in about an hour from Lucerne. The high precipices opposite Weggis belong to canton Unterwalden, but the narrow ledge of meadow at their base is in canton Lucerne.

Two rocky headlands projecting from the Rigi on one side, and the Burgenburg on the other—significantly called the Noses (Nasen)—now appear to close up the lake; but as the boat advances, a narrow strait,

not more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. wide, is disclosed between them. Once through these narrows, and the noses seem to have overlapped each other, and the traveller enters, as it were, a new lake shut out by high mountains from that which he has traversed before. This oval basin is called the *Gulf of Buochs*, from the little village at the bottom of the bay on its S. shore, behind which rise two grand mountains, the Buochser and Stanzer-Horn.

*Beckenried* (*Inn*: Sonne; Mond; Krone; Adler), a very thriving place, many houses in construction, was once the place of assembly of the council of the 4 cantons. The steamers here land passengers bound for *Buochs* (3 m.) or *Stans* (6 m.). Carriages may be hired here, and there is an omnibus daily for Lungern and the Brünig (Rte. 19).

There is a pleasant walk from Beckenried to Grütli, by a charming path, leading in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by Emetten, the Seelis-see and the village of Seelisberg. A splendid view of the lake from the top of the ascent between Beckenried and Emetten.

On the opposite shore, at the foot of the Rigi, nestles the little village *Gersau* — (*Inn and Pension*: Sonne, small, but clean)—which, with the small strip of cultivated and meadow land behind it, formed, for four centuries, an independent state, undoubtedly the smallest in civilized Europe.

Its entire territory consisted of a slope leaning against the side of the mountain, produced probably by the earth and rubbish washed down from above, by two mountain-torrents breaking out of ravines behind it. The whole extent of land cannot measure more than 3 m. by 2, which would make a very small *parish* in England; scarcely an acre of it is level ground, but it is covered with orchards, and supports a population of 1348 souls, dwelling in 174 houses, 82 of which form the village.

It is recorded that the people of Gersau bought their freedom from a state of villenage in 1390, with a sum of 690 lbs. of pfennings, scraped together after 10 years of hard toil, to

satisfy the Lords of Moos, citizens of Lucerne, whose serfs they had previously been. They maintained their independence apart from any other canton, and governed by a landamman and council, chosen from among themselves, until the French occupied Switzerland in 1798, since which they have been united with the canton Schwytz. Though Gersau possessed a criminal jurisdiction of its own, together with a gallows still left standing, no instance of a capital execution occurred during the whole of its existence as a separate state.

There is something very pleasing in the aspect of Gersau on the margin of its quiet cove, shrouded in orchards and shut out from the rest of the world by the precipices of the Rigi; for, although there is a path hence to Brunnen, and another to the top of the mountain, they are difficult and little used. Its picturesque, broad-brimmed cottages are scattered among the fields and chesnut woods nearly to the summit of the slopes; some perched on sloping lawns, so steep that they seem likely to slip into the lake. A road has been made from Gersau along the lake to Brunnen, and a path leads up the Rigi by the Rigi Scheideck Inn (Rte. 15).

The steamer calls off Gersau, which is reached in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Lucerne. As soon as it is left behind, the singular bare peaks of the Mythen (Mitres) start up into view,—at their foot the town of Schwytz is built, 3 m. inland, and in front of them stands the village of

*Brunnen* — (*Inns*: Golden Adler; Cheval Blanc; H. d'Angleterre)—the bustling port of the canton Schwytz, at the mouth of the river Muotta. Its position in reference to the surrounding scenery is one of the most fortunate on the lake, commanding a view along two of its finest reaches. Mt. Pilatus is well seen from this. The warehouse, called *Sust*, bears on its outer walls a rude painting of the three Confederates, to commemorate the first alliance which was formed on this spot between the Forest Cantons in 1315, after the battle of Morgarten.

Aloys Reding here raised the standard of revolt against the French in 1798.

[Those who intend to ascend the Rigi from this, usually take a char to Goldau (charge 9 frs.):—for pedestrians there is a shorter footpath from Lowertz (see Rte. 17). The Stoss, 2½ hrs. to the S.E. of Brunnen, and especially the Frohnalp, 1½ hr. S. from the Stoss, command magnificent views. The Frohnalp Pension is nearly opposite Seelisberg; it is elevated and airy.]

*Diligences* for St. Gall, Einsiedeln, and Zug.

Opposite Brunnen, the lake of the Four Cantons changes at once its direction and its character. Along the bay of Uri, or of Flüelen as it is sometimes called, it stretches nearly N. and S. Its borders are perpendicular, and almost uninterrupted precipices; the basements and buttresses of colossal mountains, higher than any of those which overlook the other branches of the lake; and their snowy summits peer down from above the clouds, or through the gullies in their sides, upon the dark gulf below. At the point of the promontory, opposite Brunnen, stands a small inn, called Treib, with a little haven in front. [The small village of Seelisberg stands on the slope of the mountain above Treib; just beyond which is the popular Pension (and Curhaus) of Sonnenberg, 1 hr. from Treib, 2½ hrs. from Beckenried, and by a steep climb of ¾ hr. from Grütli. It is about 1300 feet above the lake, and is filled to overflowing during the season. New milk every morning at 6. Sonnenberg is beautifully situated on the brow of a precipice, immediately under the Oberbauen or Seelisberger Kulm (3 hrs. ascent), and the Uri Rothstock, and looks directly down on the bright waters of the lake. It is surrounded by fragrant fir-woods, and many pretty walks lead from it. One may bathe in the lake of Seelisberg. Panorama from the Seelisberger Kulm, practicable for good lady walkers, is first class. There is a footpath from Treib to Flüelen over the mountains by Seelisberg, Bauen,

Isenthal, and Seedorf.] There is a similar and equally difficult path from Schwytz to Morsach, Sisikon, Tellenrûth, to Altorf, which was nevertheless traversed by the French General Lecourbe, with his army, in pursuit of Suwarrow, in the night, by torchlight, in 1799. The want of boats to transport his forces across the lake compelled him to this daring exploit. On turning the corner of the promontory of Treib, a singular rock, called Wytenstein, rising like an obelisk out of the water, is passed, and the Bay of Uri, in all its stupendous grandeur, bursts into view.

"It is upon this that the superiority of the lake of Lucerne to all other lakes, or, as far as I know, scenes upon earth, depends. The vast mountains rising on every side and closing at the end, with their rich clothing of wood, the sweet soft spots of verdant pasture scattered at their feet, and sometimes on their breast, and the expanse of water, unbroken by islands, and almost undisturbed by any signs of living men, make an impression which it would be foolish to attempt to convey by words."—*Sir James Mackintosh*.

W. rt., after passing the Wytenstein about a mile, the precipices recede a little, leaving a ledge, formed by earth fallen from above, and sloping down to the water's edge. A few walnut and chesnut trees have here taken root, and the small space of level ground is occupied by a meadow conspicuous among the surrounding woods from the brightness of its verdure. This is Grütli or Rütli, the spot pointed out by tradition as the rendezvous of the 3 founders of Swiss freedom, — Werner Stauffacher, of Steinen, in Schwytz; Erni (Arnold) an der Halden, of Melchthal, in Unterwalden; and Walter Fürst, of Attinghausen, in Uri. These "honest conspirators" met in secret in the dead of night, on this secluded spot, at the end of the year 1307, to form the plan for liberating their country from the oppression of their Austrian governors. They here "swore to be faithful to each other, but to do no

wrong to the Count of Habsburg, and not to maltreat his governors."

"These poor mountaineers, in the 14th cent., furnish, perhaps, the only example of insurgents who, at the moment of revolt, bind themselves as sacredly to be just and merciful to their oppressors as to be faithful to each other;" and, we may add, who carried out their intentions. The scheme thus concerted was carried into execution on the following new year's day; and such was the origin of the Swiss Confederation.

According to popular belief, which everywhere in Switzerland connects political events with notions of religion, the oath of the Grütli was followed by a miracle, and 3 springs gushed forth from the spot upon which the 3 confederates had stood. In token of this every stranger is conducted to a little hut built over the 3 sources of pure water, and is invited to drink out of them to the memory of the 3 founders of Swiss freedom. It is doubtful whether the 3 sources are not merely 1 split into 3; but few would search to detect "the pious fraud."

The view from Grütli is delightful. A small scar may be observed from hence on the face of the opposite precipice of the Frohnalpstock, formed by the fall of a piece of rock. The fragment which has left such a trifling blemish was about 1200 ft. wide; when it fell it raised such a wave on the lake as overwhelmed 5 houses of the village of Sissigen, distant 1 mile, and 11 of its inhabitants were drowned. The swell was felt at Lucerne, more than 20 miles off.

The immediate shores of the bay of Uri were, down to 1865, utterly pathless, since, for the most part, its sides are precipices, descending vertically into the water, without an inch of foreground between. Here and there a small sloping ledge intervenes, as at Grütli, and on one or two other spots room has been found for a scanty group of houses, as at Sisikon, Bauen, Isleten, &c. The strata are singularly contorted in many places.

After the union of Savoy with

France, the Swiss Government, perceiving the necessity, for strategic reasons, of increased facility of communication between the W. and E. cantons, commenced the construction of a high road—the *Axen Strasse*—along the E. cliffs of the Bay of Uri, from Brunnen to Flüelen, where it joins the St. Gotthard, a pleasant walk of 8 m. It was an arduous undertaking, requiring the cutting or blasting of a shelf in the rock, in the face of precipices, or through tunnels, for a great part of the way. It passes the hamlets of Morschach and Sisikon, and is carried close to the little shelf, or platform, at the foot of the Achsenburg, on the E. shore of the lake, called the *Tellen-Platte*, occupied by TELL'S CHAPEL,  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. by boat from Grütli (Tell's Platte Hotel!). Here, according to the tradition, Tell sprang on shore out of the boat in which Gessler was carrying him a prisoner to the dungeon of Küssnacht (Rte. 15), when the sudden storm on the lake compelled him to remove Tell's fetters, in order to avail himself of his skill as steersman: thus affording the captive an opportunity to escape. The chapel, an open arcade lined with rude and faded paintings, representing the events of the delivery of Switzerland, was erected by canton Uri in 1388, only 31 years after Tell's death, and in the presence of 114 persons who had known him personally—a strong testimony to prove that the events of his life are not a mere romance. Once a year, on the first Friday after the Ascension, mass is said and a sermon preached in the chapel, which is attended by the inhabitants on the shores of the lake, who repair hither in boats, forming an aquatic procession. There have been fierce disputes as to the existence of Tell, and a similar story is related as having occurred in Denmark to one Toko in the 10th cent.

The view from Tell's chapel is exceedingly fine. The following are the remarks of Sir James Mackintosh on this scene:—"The combination of what is grandest in nature, with



whatever is pure and sublime in human conduct, affected me in this passage (along the lake) more powerfully than any scene which I had ever seen. Perhaps neither Greece nor Rome would have had such power over me. They are dead. The present inhabitants are a new race, who regard with little or no feeling the memorials of former ages. This is, perhaps, the only place in our globe where deeds of pure virtue, ancient enough to be venerable, are consecrated by the religion of the people, and continue to command interest and reverence. No local superstition so beautiful and so moral anywhere exists. The inhabitants of Thermopylæ or Marathon know no more of these famous spots than that they are so many square feet of earth. England is too extensive a country to make Runnymede an object of national affection. In countries of industry and wealth the stream of events sweeps away these old remembrances. The solitude of the Alps is a sanctuary destined for the monuments of ancient virtue; Grütli and Tell's chapel are as much revered by the Alpine peasants as Mecca by a devout Musselman; and the deputies of the 3 ancient cantons met, so late as the year 1715, to renew their allegiance and their oaths of eternal union."

The depth of the lake, opposite Tell's chapel, is 800 ft. After rounding the cape on which it stands, Flüelen appears in view. On the W. shore the valley of Isenthal opens out; terminated by the grand snowy peaks of the *Uri Rothstock* on one side, while in the centre the vista is closed by the grand conical peak of the *Bristenstock*.

The *Uri Rothstock*, for its height, 10,376 ft., is one of the easiest mountains in Switzerland. Those who wish to ascend it may take a boat from Brunnen or Flüelen to Isleten, whence it is 5 m. to *Isenthal*, at which place there is tolerable accommodation for the night. Next morning start with one of the Imfangers as a guide (5 fr. for each person), and return at night.

*Flüelen*, the port of the canton Uri, may be reached by steam in 20 minutes from Tell's chapel. Here begins the carriage-road over the St. Gothard. (Rte. 34.)

Omnibus from Altorf to meet the steamer.

ROUTE 19.

THE PASS OF THE BRÜNIG.—LUCERNE TO MEYRINGEN OR BRIENZ.

	Eng. m.
Lucerne	{ Diligence or Steamer }
Stanzstad	
Alpnach Gestad	
Sarnen	{ 8
Lungern	{ Diligence in 10
Meyringen, or	{ 8½ hrs., 9
Brienz	{ in 6½ hrs. 10

A good carriage-road has been made across the Brünig: its beauties are fully equal to those of the former path. (See Map.)

From Lucerne, steamer to Stanstad 35 min.; on to Alpnach, 20 min., 55 min. in all; fare 2 fr. Diligence from Alpnach over the Brünig, to Brienz, &c. Passengers booked on board the steamer, or at the post-office, Lucerne. Leaving Lucerne in the morning, Brienz is reached in about 10 hrs. by the diligence, in time for the steamers to Interlaken, and thence by the rly. on to Berne.

From Lucerne the traveller by water proceeds through a strait between the village of Stanzstad on the l. and the spur of the Pilatus, called Lopper, on the rt., into that beautiful



and retired gulf of the lake of the Four Cantons, called the Lake of Alpnach. The castle of Rotzberg, on its E. shore, is remarkable as the first stronghold of the Austrians of which the Swiss confederates gained possession on New-year's day, 1308. One of the party, the accepted lover of a damsel within the castle, being, according to the practice of Swiss lovers even at the present time, admitted by a ladder of ropes to a midnight interview with his mistress, a girl living within its walls, succeeded in introducing, in the same way, 20 of his companions, who found no difficulty in surprising and overpowering the garrison. The loves of Jägeli and Anneli have, from that day forth, been celebrated in Swiss song. A series of simultaneous risings in other parts of the Forest Cantons proved equally successful, and in 24 hours the country was freed from the Austrian rule.

*Stanzstad* (*Inns*: Zum Winkelried; Rössli) is a small village on the margin of the lake, immediately opposite Winkel, under the Rotzberg. It is distinguished by its tall watch-tower, 5 centuries old. In 1315, a little before the battle of Morgarten, a vessel laden with Austrian partisans was crushed and swamped by a millstone hurled from the top of this tower.

An embankment has been thrown over the narrow mouth of the Alpnach arm of the lake, with a bridge (Achenbrücke) in the centre, which can be raised to let the steamer pass, between Stanzstad and the Lopper. *Omnibus* daily, Stanzstad to Beckenried.

*Gestad*, or *Alpnach-am-Gestad*, at the S. end of the bay ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Winkel) (*Inns*: H. Pilate; Stern), is the principal port for travellers going to or coming from the Brünig. A 1-horse char to Lungern costs 12 fr. and drink-money 1 fr.; a 2-horse carriage 20 fr. and 2 fr. drink-money.

The carriage-road from Lucerne to Alpnach-am-Gestad runs across the promontory to Winkel on the lake, thence skirting it to

*Hergiswyl* (*Inn*, Rössli), from which the bridle-path ascends the Pilatus to the *Klimsenhorn* hotel (Rte. 16). It next coasts around the base of the Lopper, one of the buttresses of Pilate, to the Achenbrücke, and continues by the shore of the Alpnach Lake to Gestad.

*Alpnach* (*Inns*: Schlüssel; Sonne). It is a scattered village of 1400 Inhab. at the foot of the Pilatus (Rte. 17),  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the water-side. The extensive forests which clothe the sides of that mountain belong, for the most part, to Alpnach, and would be a source of wealth to its inhabitants if they could be got at more easily. It was with a view of turning to account the fine timber, that the *Slide of Alpnach* was constructed. This was a trough of wood formed of nearly 30,000 trees, fastened together lengthwise, 5 or 6 ft. wide at the top, and 3 or 4 ft. deep, extending from a height of 2500 ft. down to the water's edge. It was planned by an engineer from Württemberg, named Rupp. The course of this vast inclined plane was in some places circuitous; it was supported partly on uprights; and thus was carried over 3 deep ravines, and, in two instances, passed underground. Its average declivity did not exceed 1 foot in 17, yet this sufficed to discharge a tree 100 ft. long and 4 ft. in diameter, in the short space of 6 minutes, from the upper end of the trough, where it was launched, into the lake below, a distance exceeding 8 Eng. m. The trees were previously stripped of their branches, barked, and rudely dressed with the axe. The bottom of the trough was kept constantly wet by a rill of water trickling down it, and thereby diminishing the friction. Professor Playfair, who has written a most interesting account of the slide, says that the trees shot downwards with a noise like the roar of thunder and the rapidity of lightning. Though the utmost care was taken to remove every obstacle, it sometimes happened that a tree stuck by the

way, or, being arrested suddenly in its progress, leaped or bolted out of the trough with a force capable of cutting the trees growing at the side short off, and of dashing the log itself to atoms. To prevent such accidents, watchmen were stationed at regular distances along the sides during the operation of discharging the wood, and a line of signals, similar to those in use on modern railways, were established, showing when anything went wrong. The timber, when discharged, was collected on the lake and floated down the Reuss into the Rhine, where it was formed into rafts, and sold in Holland. Napoleon had contracted for the greater part of the timber, to supply his dockyards; but the peace of 1815, by diminishing the demand, rendered the speculation unprofitable, and the slide, having been long abandoned, was taken down in 1819. Similar slides, nearly as long, are common throughout the great forests of the Tyrol and Styria. (See *Handbook for South Germany*.)

The *Ch. of Alpnach*, a handsome modern edifice, with a taper spire, was built with the timber brought down by the slide.

In the canton Unterwalden, which we are about to traverse, by an ancient law every inhabitant was bound to guide the stranger who questions him on his way, without fee or charge. The road ascends the valley along the left bank of the Aa, about 6 m. to *Sarnen*.

[*Beckenried to the Brünig*. Beckenried is a village of 1400 Inhab., beautifully situated on the Lake of Lucerne. The *Soleil* is a good and clean *Inn*. It can furnish charrs or horses. The steamers from Flüelen land passengers at Beckenried and at Buochs.

The char or diligence road runs round the bay of *Buochs*, passing through the village of Buochs. (*Inns*: Kreutz; Krone) to

*Stanz* — *Inns*: Krone (Crown); Engel (Angel)—capital of the lower

division (Nidwalden) of canton Unterwalden, contains 1870 Roman Catholic Inhab. It was in the *Rathhaus* of Stanz that the venerable Swiss worthy Nicolas Von der Flue appeased the burning dissensions of the confederates, in 1481, by his wise and soothing counsels. In the existing building there is a picture representing him taking leave of his family. In the market-place is a statue of Arnold of Winkelried, a native of Stanz, with the "sheaf of spears" in his arms. (See Rte. 4.) His house is also shown here, now occupied by a family named Kaiser, that of Winkelried being extinct. It is a large ancient farm-house, of which one portion, including a low archway with groined entrance and dwarf pillars, may be as old as the time of Winkelried. The field on which it stands is called in old records "the meadow of Winkelried's children." On the outer walls of the bone-house, attached to the handsome *Parish Church*, is a tablet to the memory of the unfortunate people of Nidwalden (386 in number, including 102 women and 25 children) who were massacred, in defending their homes, by the French in September, 1798. In that year this division of the canton was the only part of Switzerland which refused the new constitution tyrannically imposed on it by the French republic. The ancient spirit of Swiss independence, fanned and excited by the exhortations of the priests (which in this instance must be termed fanatic, as all resistance was hopeless and useless), stirred up this ill-fated community to engage an army ten times greater than any force they could oppose to it, and consisting of veteran troops. At a time when the larger and more powerful cantons had yielded, almost without a struggle, the brave but misguided men of Unterwalden and Schwytz afforded the solitary proof that Swiss bravery and love of freedom were not extinct in the land of Tell. Their desperate resistance, however, served only to inflame the fury of their foes. After

a vain attempt made by the French to starve the Unterwaldeners into submission, "on the 3rd of September, 1798, General Schauenburg, the French commander, directed a general attack to be made, by means of boats from Lucerne, as well as by the Oberland. Repulsed with great spirit by the inhabitants, only 2000 strong, the attack was renewed every day from the 3rd to the 9th of September. On this last day, towards two in the afternoon, new reinforcements having penetrated by the land side, with field-pieces, the invaders forced their way into the very heart of the country. In their despair the people rushed on them with very inferior arms. Whole families perished together; no quarter was given on either side. 18 young women were found among the dead, side by side with their fathers and brothers, near the chapel of Winkelried. 63 persons who had taken shelter in the church of Stanz were slaughtered there, with the priest at the altar. Every house in the open country, in all 600, was burnt down; Stanz itself excepted, which was saved by the humanity of a *chef de brigade*. The inhabitants who survived this day, wandering in the mountains without the means of subsistence, would have died during the ensuing winter if they had not received timely assistance from the other cantons, from Germany and England, and from the French army itself, after its first fury was abated."—*Simond*.

The attack upon Stanzstad was conducted by General Foy, afterwards so prominent a leader of the liberal party in France. That unfortunate village was totally consumed.

*Kerns*, a small village 7 m. beyond Stanz, with a tolerable Inn. The pedestrian may either make a short cut to Sachseln avoiding Sarnen, or may take a boat at Sarnen to the upper end of the lake of Sarnen. A mile and a half beyond Kerns the road from Beckenried meets the road from Lucerne at]

*Sarnen*.—(*Inns*: Sarner Hof; Aigle d'Or, fair.) This village, of 3300

Inhab., is the capital of the division of the canton called Obwalden, and the seat of the Government. It is pleasingly situated at the extremity of the lake of Sarnen, at the foot of an eminence called *Landenberg*, residence of the cruel Austrian bailiff of that name who put out the eyes of the aged Henry an der Halden, father of one of the heroes of of Grütli. The castle which stood on it was in consequence captured by the peasants, who entered with arms concealed, on New-year's morning, 1308, almost without resistance. No vestige of the castle now remains: the terrace which occupies its site, and commands a most beautiful view, has since 1646 served for the annual convocations of the citizens of the canton, who meet there to elect their magistrates. Adjoining it is the public shooting-house for rifle-shooting. The upper half of the village was burnt some years ago. The lower half is very old; and there is a bridge across the river nearly 300 years old, constructed, like many of the Swiss bridges, on the modern principle of having the arch above the roadway.

The *Rathhaus*, a plain edifice, not unlike the court-house of an English county town, contains, in its "business-like council chambers," portraits of the landammén from 1381 to 1824. "The artists have been particularly successful in delineating the beards." There is one picture, however, better than the rest, of Nicholas von der Flüe, one of the worthies of Switzerland, more particularly respected in this canton, where effigies of him abound. He enjoys the rare reputation of a patriot, and at the same time a peace-maker, having spent his life in allaying the bitterness and dissensions between his countrymen, which, at one time, threatened the destruction of the Helvetic Republic. After an active life, in which he acquired a good reputation as a soldier in the field, and an adviser in council, at 50 years of age, he retired from the world into the remote valley of Melchthal, where he passed his

time as a hermit in a humble cell, in exercises of piety. His reputation, however, for wisdom as well as virtue, was so high that the counsellors of the confederacy flocked to him in his solitude to seek advice, and his sudden appearance before the Diet at Stanz and his conciliating counsels prevented the dissolution of the confederacy. After enjoying the respect of men during his lifetime, he was honoured after his death (1487) as a saint.

The valley of Sarnen, bounded by gently sloping hills, has nothing Alpine in its scenery; its character is quiet, and pastoral, and pleasing. The successful experiment of letting off the waters of the lake of Lungern has led to a similar project of reducing that of Sarnen, which will probably be carried into effect sooner or later.

[The Storegg and Jauchli passes from Sarnen to Engelberg are described in Rte. 31.]

The road skirting the E. shore of the lake traverses the pretty village of

*Sachseln* (Inns: Kreutz, good; Engel, comfortable.) Within the *Parish Church*, Nicholas von der Flue, the hermit and saint, is interred. His bones lie, but do not repose, in a glass case above the high altar, the shutters of which are opened for travellers, and are also withdrawn at stated seasons in order to be exhibited to the crowds of pilgrims who repair hither to pay their vows to the saint. Within the ribs, where the heart was, there is now a jewelled cross, and from the breast hang several military orders gained by natives of Unterwalden in military service, but offered up to the use of the dead saint, who is known to the peasants by the name of Bruder Klaus. There is a wooden figure in the transept, clothed with the saint's veritable robes. The walls are lined, by devotees, with votive tablets offered to the shrine of St. Nicholas, recording miracles supposed to have been performed by him.

The village *Gyswyl* was half swept away in 1629 by an inundation of the torrent *Laubach*, which brought

so much rubbish into the valley as to dam up the waters of the Aa. A lake, thus created, lasted for 130 years, when it was finally let off by an artificial canal into the lake of Sarnen.

[The summit of the *Brienzer Rothhorn*, celebrated for its view, may be reached in 6 hours from Gyswyl; the path, at least for the first 3 hours, is good; the descent into the valley above *Sörenberg* is not so good.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the top are ruins of an inn burned down 1847. (See Rte. 25 E.)]

The steep ascent of the *Kaiserstuhl* requires to be surmounted before the road reaches a higher platform in the valley occupied by the *Lake of Lungern*.

This lake was formerly a beautiful sheet of water, embowered in woods, and partly enclosed by steep banks. The dwellers on its shores, less influenced by admiration of its picturesqueness than by the prospect of enriching themselves in the acquisition of 500 acres of good land previously buried under water, tapped it in 1839, lowering its surface by about 120 feet, and reducing it by nearly one half.

The cost of this enterprise was about 2000*l.* and 19,000 days' labour performed by the peasants.

*Lungern* (Inns: *Hötel Brünig*, good; *Löwe*), about 10 m. from Sarnen, a timber-built village, the last in the valley, situated at the foot of the *Brünig*, and at the S. end of the lake, now removed by the drainage some distance from it.

The carriage-road over the *Brünig*, leaving the old mule-path l., ascends in well-constructed zigzag sweeps through the forest until it reaches the summit.

[There is a short cut for pedestrians to *Brienzen*.] From this the ascent of the *Wylerhorn* (5895 ft.) may be made.

The culminating point of the pass of the *Brünig* is 3294 ft. above the sea-level. From the summit, near the frontier of canton Berne, a charming and first-rate view is obtained along

the entire valley of Nidwalden, backed by the Pilatus, with the Lungern See for a foreground, forming altogether one of the most delicious scenes in Switzerland. From the brow, the valley of Hasli, with the Aar winding through the midst, opens out to the view of the traveller, backed by the gigantic and snow-white crests of the Wetterhorn, Eiger, and others of the Bernese Alps, and in front of them the Faulhorn.

The *Brünig Hotel* is finely placed near the top of the Pass.

Close to a small tavern, formerly a toll-house, from which there is a fine view, the road divides: the carriage-road on the rt. leads to the lake of Brienz; the bridle-path l. to Meyringen, seated in the midst of the rich flat which forms the bottom of the valley. From the opposite precipices two or three streaks of white may be discerned: these are the Falls of the Reichenbach, the Oltschibach, and others.

1½ hr. will take the traveller down to *Meyringen* (Rte. 25 D) (5¼ m.); 1 hr. will take him down the steep descent, by the new road, to Brienzwyler bridge on the road from Brienz to Meyringen, whence it is about 3 m. over a dull flat road to

*Brienz*. (Rte. 25 E.)

## ROUTE 20.

SARNEN TO ENGELBERG OR MEYRINGEN,  
BY THE MELCHTHAL.

Pedestrian travellers, bound from Lucerne to Meyringen or Engelberg, may vary their route in an agreeable way by passing through the Melchthal, which opens out to the E. of Sarnen (Rte. 19). At its mouth, close to the chapel of *St. Niklausen*, stands an isolated tower, one of the most ancient buildings in the canton, dating from the earliest Christian times, erected probably as a belfry. Melchthal was the native place of Arnold an der Halden, one of the conspirators of Grütli. (Rte. 18.) Nearly opposite to *St. Niklausen* is the *Ranft*, the site of the hermitage of the venerable Nicolas von der Flüe (see Rte. 19). The scenery of the valley which lies between the range of the Hochstollen (highest point 8157 ft.) and the Lauberstock (8395 ft.) is very agreeable. Countless chalets and hay-sheds cover the slopes on either side.

Three ways lead from the Melchthal to Engleberg.

(a) *Storegg Pass* (6709 ft.) turns off l. just beyond the bridge 1 m. from *Ranft* and 4 m. from *Kerns* or *Sarnen*. It is frequented, but difficult to follow; a guide should be applied for at the curé's of Melchthal, 1 m. farther up the valley. A steep ascent of 2 hrs. leads to the Col, where frequently snow lies in patches. Next a descent of ½ hr. to the *Lautersee*, a small lake which lies on the l.; then a descent of 1 hr. to junction of *Jauchli* road (see below), and ¾ hr. on to *Engelberg*.

(b) *Jauchli Pass* (7136 ft.): the turn is from the end of the char-road, 1 m. beyond Melchthal. Steep zigzags lead up grassy slopes in 2 hrs. to the Col, where there is usually snow. The path passes through a narrow gap, where there is deep moss and many flowers. Then a descent of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. to junction of Storegg route, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. on to *Engelberg*. (Rte. 31.)

(c) Following the Melchthal, the Melchsee (6432 ft.) near a group of châteaux of the same name is reached. The stream that runs from it is lost in the ground and reappears after an interval. A mountain-path leads from it into the Gentelthal about 1 hr. below Engstlen.

## ROUTE 22.

LUCERNE TO BERNE [OR THUN], BY THE ENTLEBUCH AND THE EMMENTHAL, AND LANGNAU (RAIL).

Post road. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  posts = 57 Eng. m.

Railway, Langnau to Berne.

Diligence, Lucerne to Langnau, in 7 or 8 hrs.

	Posts.	Eng. m.
Schachen . . . .	$1\frac{1}{4}$	= 10
Escholz matt . . .	2	= 18
Langnau Stat. . . .	. . .	10
Berne . . . . .	$1\frac{1}{4}$	= 11

This is the best and shortest of the two carriage-roads to Berne, and may still be adopted by pedestrians, or by those who wish to see two of the finest pastoral valleys in Switzerland. A rly. is begun. After a short détour the road enters a narrow valley, and follows the course of the stream

past Krienz, where there are some iron-works, and then falls into the valley of the *Kleine Emme*, which it follows.

*Schachen*, a little beyond which the Free Corps were defeated in 1845 by the men of Lucerne.

From Schachen there is an old road over the steep *Bramegg* pass, commanding a fine view, and falling into the main road at Entlebuch, but by the main road it takes about 4 hours from Lucerne to reach the village of

*Entlebuch*, at the W. foot of the *Bramegg* (*Inns*: H. du Port, Drei Könige), prettily situated on a slope, with the torrents Entle and Emme roaring beneath it.

The vale of Entlebuch is about 30 m. long, and is flanked by mountains covered with woods and pastures. The men of the valley are celebrated as the best wrestlers in Switzerland. They hold 4 or 5 great wrestling-matches, called *Schwing Feste*, between the months of June and Oct.; the chief on the first Sunday in Sept., when they try their skill against the athletes of the neighbouring valleys. The Bernese highlanders are formidable rivals. The Entlebuchers have been long renowned for their courage and independence. In 1405 Lucerne bought this valley from Austria, along with the feudal rights of the nobles over it, substituting a Lucerne bailli.

*Escholz matt* (*Inns*: Löwe, good; Krone) is a scattered village, in a very high situation, 2690 ft. A little way beyond it the road quits the Entlebuch, and descends, by the side of the Ilfis torrent, into the canton of Berne.

Near Trübschachen is a handsome hospital of wood for 100 orphans and 300 paupers.

*Langnau* (*Inns*: Cerf, quiet and good; H. zum Emmenthal, clean) is the principal place in the *Emmenthal* (Pop. 6000), an extensive, fertile, and industrious valley, famed for its cheeses (made on the high pastures near the tops of the hills, and exported all over

Germany), and for its manufactures of linen. Its meadows are of the brightest verdure; the cottages neat and substantial, with pretty gardens before them. The Emme, which traverses it, and its tributaries, at times commit serious devastations, by inundating their banks and overspreading them with gravel and débris.

*Railway* from Langnau to Berne, 3 trains daily in 1 hr. The Ilfis is crossed, and afterwards the Emme, before reaching *Signau Stat.*—(*Inn: Ours, tolerable*)—a pretty village, with a ruined castle above it.

Next follows Zäziwyl, Konolfingen, Tägertsche Stats., and Worb Stat., an industrious village, with a Gothic castle above it.

Gümpling Junct. Stat. is on the rly. from Berne to Thun (Rte. 25A).

BERNE *Terminus* (in Rte. 24).

## ROUTE 24.

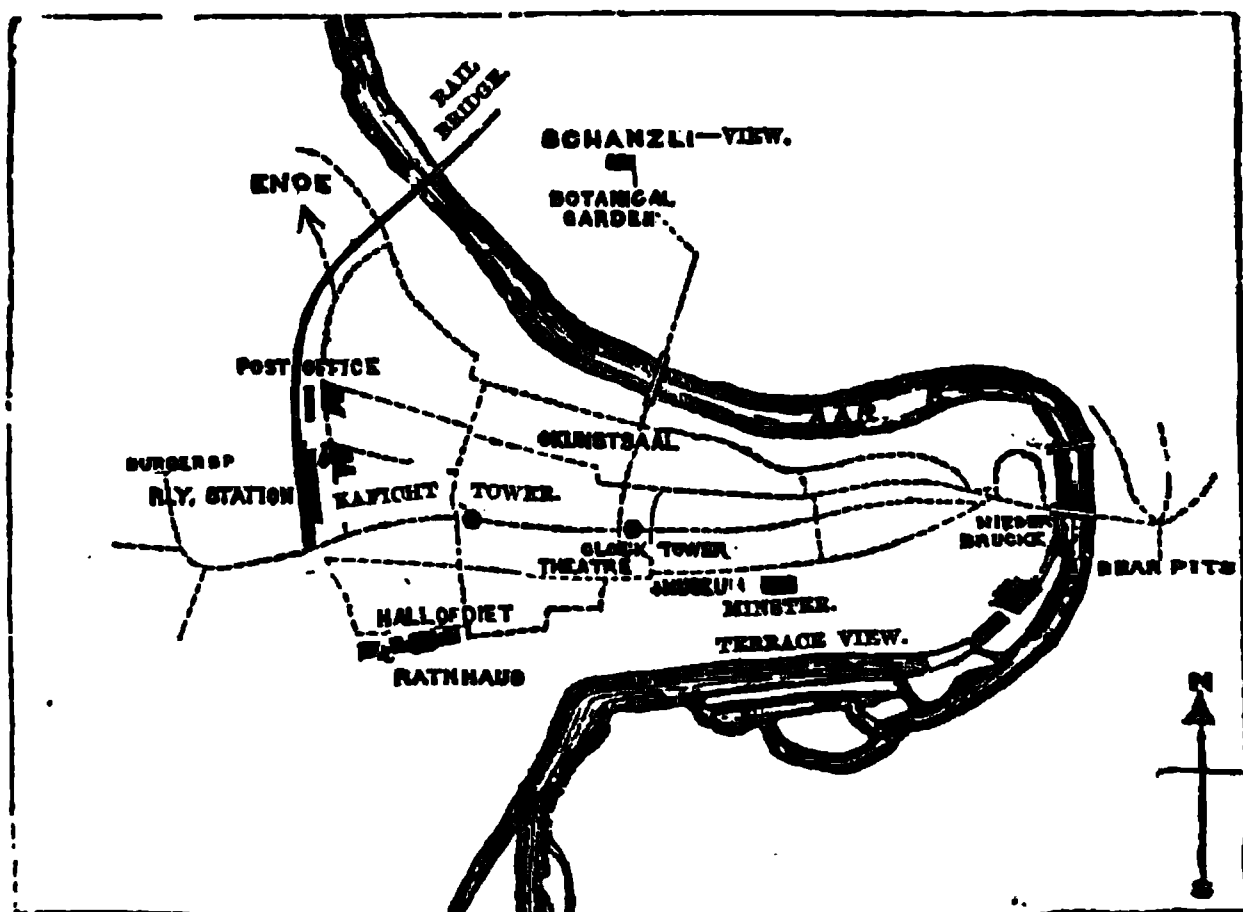
### LUCERNE TO BERNE, BY RAILWAY.

This, although involving a long détour, is still the quickest mode of reaching Berne from Lucerne, and takes about 5 hrs.

Lucerne to Olten. (See Rte. 4.)

Olten to Berne. (See Rte. 5.)

BERNE.—*Inns*: three large houses near the rly. and close to the Federal Hall: Zähringerhof and Schweizerhof, clean, good, and moderate; Bernerhof, first-class, fine view of the Alps; \*H. Bellevue (Oswald), well managed and quite comfortable; H. de l'Europe, good. In the centre of the town are the Falke (Faucon), Br. 1½ fr.; tea, do.; B. 2½ fr.; table-d'hôte at 1, 3 fr.; at 5, 4 fr.;—H. du Maure (Zum Mohren), clean, good, and moderate; H. des Boulangers (Pfistern). The *Abbays*, or houses of the guilds, such





as the Distelzwang,\* or Abbaye aux Gentilshommes, and the Abbaye du Singe, afford comfortable, quiet, and moderate accommodation to travellers. There are several *Pensions*, of which the Pension Jaggi at la Villette is well recommended.

The *sights of Berne* may be taken in a walk through the town in the following order:—Starting from the rly. stat., walk E., and straight down the principal street (called in consecutive portions of its length Spitalgasse, Marktasse, Klamgasse, and Gerichtigkeitsgasse), along its arcades and under its clock towers, to the Nydeck Bridge, and over it to the Bears ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the rly. stat.). In returning diverge 200 yards to the l., to see the Münster platz (Minster and view), and again to the Bundes Rathhaus (Federal Assembly). The Münster is halfway between the rly. stat. and the Bears, and the Bundes Rathhaus is close to the stat. Finally, crossing the Aar, ascend to the Schänzli, the best point of view near Berne, and return by the new Botanic Garden and rly. bridge to the station.

Berne, capital of the largest of the Swiss cantons (Pop. 467,141; all but 58,319 are Protestants), and, since 1849, permanent seat of the Swiss Government and Diet, and residence of most of the foreign ministers, contains 29,016 Inhab.

Berne is built on a lofty sandstone promontory, formed by the winding course of the Aar, which nearly surrounds it, flowing at the bottom of a deep gully, with steep and in places precipitous sides (stalden). The inconvenient ascent and descent by which the town could alone be reached from the E. formerly, has been remedied by a lofty *Bridge* (Pont de Nydeck), partly of granite, derived from erratic blocks lying on the Kirchet hill, thrown over this gully. It is 900 ft. long, and the central arch over the Aar 150 ft. wide and 93 ft. high. The distant aspect of the town, planted on this elevated platform,

1700 ft. above the sea, is imposing, and there is something striking in its interior, from the houses all being built of massive stone. It has this peculiarity, that almost all the houses rest upon arcades (Lauben), which furnish covered walks on each side of the streets, and are lined with shops and stalls, like "the Rows" in the city of Chester. The lowness of the arches, however, and the solidity of the buttresses supporting them, render these colonnades gloomy and close. The chief street of shops and business runs through the town, along the top of the ridge. Overhanging the Aar, and removed from the main streets, are the more aristocratic residences of the exclusive patricians, which look really like "gentlemen's houses."

Rills of water are carried through the streets to purify them, and they are abundantly furnished with *Fountains*, each surmounted by some quaint effigy. One of these, the *Kinderfresser-Brunnen* (Ogre's-fountain), on the Corn-house-square, receives its name from a figure (probably Saturn) devouring a child, with others stuck in his girdles and pockets ready for consumption. Some bear the figures of armed warriors, such as David: another is surmounted by a female figure; but the favourite device is the *Bear*. Thus, the upper fountain in the principal street is surmounted by a bear in armour, with breast-plate, thigh-pieces, and helmet, a sword at his side, and a banner in his paw. The *Schützen Brunnen* is the figure of a Swiss cross-bowman of former days, attended by a young bear as squire; and two stone bears, larger than life, stand as sentinels on either side of the Morat gate.

Along the line of the principal street, which extends from the Rly. Stat. to the Nydeck Bridge over the Aar, are 2 antique watch-towers and the *Käfigt Thurm* (cage tower), now used as a prison. The *Clock-tower* (Zeitglockenthurm) stands nearly in the centre of the town, though, when originally built, in 1191, by Berchtold V. of Zähringen, it guarded the

\* *Zwang*, a local word for guild: Distel, thistle, the emblem of the gentlemen who held their meetings or club under this sign.

outer wall. Its droll clockwork puppets are objects of wonder to an admiring crowd of gaping idlers. A minute before the hour strikes, first a wooden cock appears, crows twice, and flaps his wings; and while a puppet strikes the hour on a bell, a procession of bears issues out, and passes in front of a figure on a throne, who marks the hour by gaping, reversing an hour-glass, and by lowering his sceptre.

The great charm of Berne is the view of the Bernese Alps, which the town and every eminence in its neighbourhood command in clear weather. From the \**Münster Platz*, a lofty terrace, planted with shady rows of trees, overlooking the Aar, behind the Minster, six snowy peaks of the great chain are visible, and from the Enghe terrace, outside of the town, at least a dozen rise into view; they appear in the following order, beginning from the E.:—1. Wetterhorn; 2. Schreckhorn; 3. Finster-Aarhorn; 4. Eigher; 5. Mönch; 6. Jungfrau; 8. Gletscherhorn; 9. Mittaghorn; 10. Blumlis Alp; 11. In the middle distance, Niessen; 12. Stockhorn. (See Woodcut.)

There cannot be a more sublime sight than this view at sunset; especially at times when, from a peculiar state of the atmosphere, the slanting rays are reflected from the Alpine snows in hues of glowing pink. It is hardly possible to gaze on these Alps and glaciers without desiring to explore their recesses, which enclose some of the most magnificent scenery in Switzerland. The *Platform* itself, supported by a massive wall of masonry, rises 108 ft. above the Aar; yet an inscription on the parapet records that a young student, mounted on a spirited horse, which had been frightened by some children, leaped the precipice, and reached the bottom with no other hurt than a few broken ribs. The horse was killed on the spot. The rider became minister of Kerzerz, and lived to a good old age!

Here is placed a bronze *Statue* of Berchtold V. of Zähringen, founder of Berne, by Tschanner of Munich.

The \**Minster*, a fine Gothic building in the Flamboyant style, was begun in

1421, and finished 1457, from designs of Matthias v. Steinbach, son of the builder of Strasburg Minster; and many of the ornaments, such as the open parapet running round the roof, and varying in pattern between each buttress, are not inferior in design or execution to those of Strasburg. The chief ornament is the great W. *portal*, bearing sculptured reliefs of the Last Judgment, flanked by figures of the wise and foolish Virgins, &c. (date, 1475-85). The interior is not remarkable; but the *Organ* is fine, and is played on daily. In the windows, and on the roof, are the coats of arms of the aristocratic burghers of Berne. 3 tall windows of very fine painted glass in the choir deserve notice; (date, end of 15th cnty.), e. g. the so-called "wafers-window," with a symbolical representation of the Eucharist. The stalls in the choir (1512) are well carved with figures of the Apostles on one side, and prophets on the other. Along the walls are tablets, bearing the names of 18 officers and 683 soldiers, citizens of Berne, who fell fighting against the French, at Grauholz, near Zollikofen, 1798. There is also a monument erected by the town, in 1600, to Berchtold of Zähringen, founder of Berne.

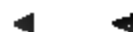
On the Münster Platz, opposite the W. door of the cathedral, has been erected a bronze *Monumental Statue* of Rudolph v. Erlach, the conqueror at Laupen, with 4 bears at the corners.

The *Museum* contains one of the best collections of the natural productions of Switzerland to be found in the country. It is open to the public 3 times a week: strangers may obtain admittance at all times by paying 1 fr. for 1 to 3 persons.

In the zoological department there are stuffed specimens of the bear at all ages. Two young cubs, about the size of kittens, respectively 8 and 21 days old—hideous and uncouth monsters—enable one easily to discover the origin of the vulgar error that the bear was licked into shape by its mother. The lynx of the Alps, and the steinbock, both from the Bernese chain, are interesting from their rarity;

BERNESE ALPS. FROM BERNE.

S T B M T



Wetterhorn. | Schreckhorn. | Finster Aarhorn. | Elgher. | Münch. | Jungfrau.

B T B N D



22

Strathorn. | Frau of Blum's Alps. | Niesen. | Dolomitenhorn.

Stuckhorn.

Tschingelhorn.

these animals have nearly disappeared from Europe. Here is deservedly preserved the skin of *Barry*, one of the dogs of St. Bernard, who is recorded to have saved the lives of 15 human beings by his sagacity. A chamois with three horns, one growing out of the nose; a specimen of a cross breed between the steinbock and domestic goat, which lived 7 years; a wild boar, of gigantic size and bristling mien, are also worth notice.

In the *Ornithological* department are the *lämmergeyer* (vulture of lambs), the feathered monarch of the Alps, and inferior in size to the condor alone among birds. It breeds only on the highest mountains.

In addition to the native birds of Switzerland, there are specimens of several foreign and tropical birds which have found their way into Switzerland by accident; viz., a flamingo, killed near the lake of Morat, and a pelican from Constance.

The geology of Switzerland may be well studied in the very complete series of fossils collected by *M. Studer* and others. There are a number of beautiful specimens of all the rarest and finest minerals from St. Gothard. The illustration of Swiss *Botany* is equally complete.

Several plans in relief of various parts of Switzerland will prove equally instructive to the student of geography and geology.

*Antiquities.*—Obs. some Roman antiquities dug up in Switzerland; the Prie Dieu of Charles the Bold, and part of his tent hangings, captured by the Bernese at Grandson; the pointed shoes worn by the Bernese nobles in the 16th century; some dresses, &c. from the South Sea Islands, brought over by Weber, the artist, who accompanied the expedition, who was of Swiss origin.

The *Town Library* is a good collection of 40,000 volumes, and is well stored with Swiss history. Haller, who was born at Berne, was librarian. The butter-market is held beneath this building.

On the N. side of the town is the

*Roman Catholic Church*, by the architects Deperthes of Rheims and Müller of Freiburg, of rich Gothic; lined inside with marbles.

The *Bundes-Rathhaus* or *Federal Council Hall*, built 1857, near the Casino, overlooking the Aar, at the S.W. corner of the town, by far the largest and handsomest building in the town (*Studer*, architect), includes all the departments of the Swiss Legislature, the Diet, and the various Public Offices. The Diet (*Bundesversammlung*) consists of 2 bodies, the *Stände-rath* (44 Deputies of the Cantons) and *National-rath*, who meet generally in July, in 2 separate halls. The debates are open to the public. At other times the building is shown by the doorkeeper. In the upper story is the *Picture Gallery*. It contains some good modern paintings by Swiss and French artists, Robert, Calame, Diday, Girardet, &c. In front is a marble fountain, with statues in bronze of *Berna*, the Four Seasons, and 4 swans.

Berne is celebrated for the number and excellence of its Charitable Institutions: they are, perhaps, more carefully attended to than any in Europe. There is a public granary in case of scarcity, two orphan-houses, an Infirmary, and an extensive *Hospital*, bearing the inscription "Christo in pauperibus." The new Prison and Penitentiary is an enormous building and said to be well conducted.

*English Church service* on Sunday, at 11 and 3½ o'clock, in the chapel of the Burger Spital.

Since 1834 a *University* or high school has been established at Berne.

The bear forms the armorial badge of the town, the word "bern" signifying "bear" in old German, and he is as great a favourite here as in the house of Bradwardine. Not only is his effigy on sign-posts, fountains, and buildings, but for several hundred years living specimens of the favourite were maintained by the town, until the French revolutionary army took possession of Berne, 1798, and the bears were led away captives, and deposited in the *Jardin des Plantes*, where one of them, the celebrated

Martin, soon became the favourite of the French metropolis. But when the ancient order of things was restored at Berne, one of the first cares of the citizens was to replace and provide for their ancient pensioners. There is a foundation for the support of the bears, who, after having been reduced to one miserable animal, have been renovated, and have been removed from the Aarberg Gate to a commodious den near the Nydeck bridge. No traveller will quit Berne without paying them a visit, unless he wishes to have the omission of so important a sight thrown in his teeth whenever Berne is mentioned.

The fortifications of the town are converted into *Promenades*, and make very agreeable walks. The banks of the Aar, seen from them, especially from the *Grosse Schanze*, are most picturesque; and the Alps, when visible, form a background of the utmost sublimity.

They, however, as well as the city of Berne itself, are better seen from a terrace walk called the *Enghe*, about 20 min. walk to the N. from the Rly. Stat., outside the town gate, but not crossing the river, the favourite resort of the citizens. On the way to it, beyond the gate, is the *Shooting-house*, where rifle matches take place.

There is a pleasant walk by a foot-path through the Enghe-wald to Reichenbach (Rte. 5), once the residence of Rudolph von Erlach.

The most advantageous point for commanding the panorama of the Alps, reached in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s walk from the stat., crossing the magnificent rly. bridge (for carriages also), and passing the *Botanic Garden* on the rt. bank of the Aar, is the \**Schänzli*, a promenade with a large café, commanding a very fine view, at the end of the hill nearest the railway bridge.

At *Tiefenau*  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. N. of Berne, near the fine and lofty bridge over the Aar, is an ancient Gallic battle-field, whence hundreds of swords, rings, spear-heads, &c., have been collected.

The *Casino*, a handsome building close to the Bundes-Rathhaus, contains a reading-room supplied with

newspapers, a ball-room, &c. There is also a *Theatre* in the town.

*Booksellers*.—Dalp and Co., Rue de l'Hôpital, keep a good supply of maps, views, and costumes, &c., of Switzerland. J. R. Dill, artist, has published *Panoramic Views* from the Eggischhorn, Sidelhorn, Gôrner Grat, Niesen, and Grimsel. Travellers about to ascend these mountains will do well to obtain these excellent clue-views at Berne.

*Post-office* near (N. of) the rly. stat.

*History of Berne*.—It was founded in 1191 by Duke Berchthold V. of Zähringen, and was so called by him because he had killed a bear on the spot, and both he and the bear are still held in great respect. It joined the Swiss confederation in 1353, having been for many years an ally. Until 1798 it held Argau, Vaud, and other districts, as tributaries, and is reported to have governed them tyrannically. The government latterly fell into the hands of a small number of aristocratic families, who lost their power in 1798, partly recovered it in 1814, and lost it again in 1831. A Von Erlach led the Swiss to the battle of Laupen in 1339, and a Von Erlach led them against the French in 1798. Until 1848 the Swiss government was carried on by Berne, Zürich, and Lucerne alternately, the governing canton for the year being called the *Vorort*.

## ROUTE 25.

### THE BERNESE OBERLAND.

- A. BERNE TO THUN AND INTERLAKEN.
- B. INTERLAKEN TO LAUTERBRUNNEN—MÜRREN.
- C. LAUTERBRUNNEN TO GRINDELWALD—WENGERN ALP.
- D. GRINDELWALD TO MEYRINGEN—GREAT SCHEIDECK—FAULHORN.
- E. MEYRINGEN TO BRIENZ AND THUN—GIESBACH.

It was in this magnificent highland district that Byron "repeopled hi

mind from nature," and gathered many of the ideas and images which he has so exquisitely interwoven in his tragedy of 'Manfred,' the scene of which lies among the Bernese Alps.

A traveller in the Oberland should be supplied with plenty of patience and small change. Nowhere are the arts of mendicancy better understood, or more generally practised. Numerous gates intercept the frequented foot-paths, and at the approach of a stranger children run out to open it stretching forth their hands for alms. Travellers are requested by the Swiss Government, after an investigation into local mendicancy, not to give to beggars.

#### A. Berne to Thun.—Rail.

One hour by rly., four trains a day.

In fine weather the snowy Alps are in sight nearly the whole way. The scenery of the valley of the Aar is very pleasing; laid out in pasture-lands, with abundance of villages, and substantial farm-houses, with broad roofs, surrounded by neat gardens. The river itself runs at some distance on the rt., and is rarely visible. The rly. crosses the Aar, passing rt. the Botanic Garden and Schänzli, and at Wyler separates from the line to Basle by Herzogenbuchsee (Rte. 5).

#### Münsingen Stat.

The *Stockhorn*, with its conical peak, and the *Niesen*, two limestone mountains, forming, as it were, the advanced guard of the high Alps, posted on the opposite side of the lake, become conspicuous objects. The river Aar is crossed near Uttigen stat.

*Thun Stat.*, on l. bank of Aar. Passengers bound for Interlaken, and not wishing to stop at Thun, proceed 1 m. further (5 min.) to

*Scherzlingen*. Terminus on the shore of the lake, where travellers step on board the steamer to Neuhaus.

*Thun, Fr. Thounse — Inns*: H. de Bellevue, outside the town—well situated in a garden commanding a view of the Aar—belongs to MM. Knechtner, who are also proprietors of the

steamboat, rather dear;—Hôtel and Pension Baumgarten; clean and pleasant, in a nice garden;—Freyenhof, within the town, very good, frequented by Swiss officers, and moderate, but no dinner is served before the hour of the table-d'hôte;—Krone (Couronne);—Campagne and \*Pension Itten, comfortable, and moderate charges; beautiful views.

There is not a more picturesque town in Switzerland than Thun, 3800 Inhab.; situated about a mile from the lake, upon the river Aar, which here rushes out of it as clear as crystal. Pre-eminent above the other buildings rise a venerable church, reached by a staircase from the Bridge up the hill-sides, and a picturesque feudal castle of the Counts of Kyburg (1429). The town enjoys considerable trade, and in the 14th cent. reckoned 70 noble families within its walls. It is a very curious old town, but contains no particular object especially worthy of notice. It is from its position and its beautiful environs, one of the most agreeable places of residence in Switzerland, and, being a starting-place for those who visit the Bernese highlands, it is thronged with a constant succession of travellers through the whole summer.

Here is the *Military College* of the Swiss Confederation, for educating officers, and the principal artillery and cavalry barracks of the country. Reviews take place every summer in the vicinity.

The *Castle of Schadau* is a large and singular Gothic castle, built (1850) by M. Rougemont, of Paris, between the Aar and the lake.

The view from the *Churchyard terrace* "along the lake, with its girdle of Alps (the Blumli Alp being the most conspicuous), fine glaciers, and rocks wooded to the top," is mentioned by Byron. A more extensive prospect is gained from the grounds of a pretty country house, called the *Jacobsstübel*, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile above the Hôtel Bellevue. The Jungfrau, Mönch, and Eiger are visible from hence. The *Churchyard of Äschi*, about 3 hrs. drive from



Thun, on the S. side of the lake, is a charming excursion, easily made and without fatigue (see Rte. 37).

M. Knechtenhofer has built a *chapel for the English, service* in the grounds of the Bellevue.

The charges for vehicles and saddle-horses throughout the Bernese Oberland have been fixed by a tariff which is hung up in the principal inns and in the lake steamers. The *voituriers* are also bound to produce the tariff when called upon to do so. The general rate is 10 frs. a day for each horse, but this rate is increased or diminished when the excursion is considered to be more or less than an ordinary day's journey.

*Lake of Thun—Thun to Interlaken.*—Steamboats ply between Thun (Scherzigen) and Neuhaus thrice a day to and fro. The voyage takes up  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. Fare 2 fr. and 1 fr.

The steamer does not take carriages; but a good carriage-road runs to Interlaken (2 posts), along the S. shore of the lake. The distance, about 15 Eng. m.

It is a pleasant walk along the N. side of the lake. After Merlingen, the path rises high; it is easy to miss it in the woods.

The lake is about 10 m. long.; 1775 ft. above the level of the sea.

The banks of the lake near Thun are occupied with neat villas and cheerful gardens; farther on, its N. shore is precipitous. Among its scanty villages and hamlets, the most important is Oberhofen, distinguished by the square tower of its *castle*. It was the property of the late Count Pourtales.

The S. shore is more striking. Here the two remarkable mountains, the *Stockhorn*, with a sharp peak projecting like a horn, or thorn, and the pyramidal mass of the *Niesen*, with its conical top and white Inn, stand sentinels at the entrance of the Kander and Simmenthal. The river Kander, conducted into the lake by an artificial channel formed for it in 1714, has deposited around its mouth, within less than a century and a half, a delta or sand-bank of several hundred acres. The progress and extent of this recent

formation, so interesting to geologists, have been ably investigated by Sir C. Lyell.

[*Ascent of the Niesen.* An interesting excursion may be made from Thun to the summit of the Niesen, which, from its position, commands one of the finest panoramic views of the Bernese Alps. A carriage-road of 7 m. conducts from Thun across the entrance of the Simmenthal to Wimmis, at the foot of the mountain. (Diligence to Brodhusi,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. short of Wimmis.) The ascent from Wimmis to the summit will take about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.; the descent 3 hrs. The charge for a horse from Wimmis to the summit and down again on the same day is 15 fr. At 5 min. walk from the summit is a wooden hotel, making up 24 beds. It may be recommended for its cleanliness, though not for its cookery.

The *near* view from the summit (7763 Eng. ft.) embraces the snowy mountains of the Oberland from the Altels and Rinderhorn on the W. to the Wetterhorn on the E.—the finest object being the Blümlis Alp, and the range extending from thence to the Jungfrau. The *more distant* view comprises the summit of Mont Blanc and the Dent du Midi; Monte Rosa and the Matterhorn are either partially or totally hidden behind the peaks of the Oberland. Directly downwards the eye rests on the two lakes of Thun and Brienz, on the town of Thun, and the villages of Brienz and Interlaken. A panoramic view has been published by Dill, and is hung up in the inn.]

S. *Spietz*. At the foot of the Niesen, on a projecting tongue of land, stands the picturesque castle, founded, according to tradition, by Attila (?), and belonging to the family of Erlach. At Spietzwylér there is a neat *Inn*.

N. When about two-thirds over the lake, a projecting promontory of precipitous rock, called the *Nase*, is passed, and a fine view is obtained of the Eigher and Mönch, which fill up the extremity of the lake with the white mass of their snow. To the rt. of them appears the Jungfrau.

In front of the Nase the lake is



720 ft. deep. N. Behind the village Merligen runs the *Justis Thal*: at a distance of between 2 and 2½ h. walk up it, in the cliffs forming its W. boundary, is a cave called *Schafloch*, which in the height of summer always contains ice. Such ice wells are not uncommon in the Jura, and in other parts of the world. For as air when it is cold is denser than when it is warm, all depths that do not admit of ventilation become receptacles of the coldest air. It subsides into them, and, once there, cannot be displaced. This cave has 2 branches; that in which the ice occurs runs straight from the entrance for about 60 ft., when it suddenly narrows, and dips down 12 or 15 ft.; near the extremity is a gulf filled with water. Lights must be taken.

N. Farther on, in the face of the mountain overhanging the lake, is the *Cave of St. Beatus*, above a small cascade, which may be seen leaping into the lake. St. Beatus, according to tradition a native of Britain, converted the inhabitants of this part of Helvetia to Christianity. Being minded to take up his residence on the shores of the lake, he fixed his eyes upon a grot well suited to a hermit's abode, which happened at the time to be occupied by a dragon. The monster, however, was easily ejected without force, and simply by hearing a notice to quit addressed to him by St. Beatus. The anchorite was in the habit of crossing the lake on his cloak, which, when spread out on the water, served him instead of a boat. A rivulet issues out of the cave, and is subject to sudden rises, which fill the cavern to the roof, and are accompanied by a loud report, like that of a cannon. It may be reached in a quarter of an hour from the shore.

At *Neuhaus* a group of houses and cabarets at the end of the lake, about 10 m. from Thun, and about 2½ m. from Interlaken, the passengers are landed. There is a booking-office here for taking through tickets in all directions. A long array of carriages, porters, guides, and horses, will be found awaiting their disembarkation: also a diligence which runs to Interlaken in

½ hr., fare 1 fr. One-horse char, 2 fr.; two-horse, 3 fr. Those bound to Grindelwald by the carriage-road would take their char or carriage from here.

An *Omnibus* conveys passengers to the steamer on the lake of Brienz.

*Unterseen*, a village of 1000 Inhab., composed (except the *Castle* on the market-place, and *Rathhaus*) of wooden houses, many of them brown from age, being two centuries old. It suffered from an inundation Aug. 1851, which swept away its bridge and some of its houses, and the landlord of H. des Alpes was drowned at the same time.

It is situated about half way between the lakes of Thun and Brienz, whence its name, and that of its immediate neighbour, Interlaken, both signifying "between the lakes." Interlaken has of late become so completely a fashionable watering-place, that those who wish for quiet and economy resort to the pensions here, of which there are several. The *Hotel and Pension Beausite* (4 fr. 25 c. a-day) is very well spoken of.

The manufactory of *Parquet floorings* of MM. Seiler is worth a visit.

\*.\* Travellers having made up their minds at which house they will put up, in Interlaken, should insist on being driven to it, and not be deterred by being told that "it is full"—a common trick with persons interested in other houses.

*Interlaken. Inns:* H. Victoria, splendid, huge house, and comfortable, very good; H. Belvedere, good; Schweizer Hof; H. d'Interlaken; H. and Pension des Alpes; H. du Lac, on the Lake of Brienz; H. Beau Site; H. Ritschard, large, good, chiefly German; H. and Pension Jungfrau-Blick, a little way out of the town, large and well situated; but deficient in cleanliness. There are at least a dozen pensions or boarding-houses here, where travellers are received for one day, paying as at an hotel, or for a stay of 5 or even 3 days en pension, at lower charges, varying between 5 and 6 fr. a-day, exclusive of wine, for boarding and lodging. The

principal pensions are Strübe's;—the Casino affords as good accommodation as any in the place;—Campagne Felsenegg, near the Brienz road. At most of these houses there is a daily table-d'hôte, and during the season balls are now and then given at one or other. Pension Ober, very comfortable.

In 1859 a *Kursaal*, designed after the fashion of those at the German Baths, with restaurant, reading-rooms, a ball and concert room, play-tables, &c., was opened by some of the inn-keepers for their benefit. Fortunately the Bernese government has interdicted the hazard-tables, which the managers desired to introduce.

Interlaken has few sights or lions for the tourist or passing traveller, who need not stop here, unless he require to rest himself. Its beautiful position, however, on a little plain between the lakes, in full view of the Jungfrau, whose snowy summit is seen through a gap in the minor chain of Alps, its vicinity to numerous interesting sites, and some of the most pleasing excursions in Switzerland, together with its cheapness as a place of residence, have spread its reputation through Europe, and have converted it into a sort of watering-place, thronged with English, German, American, and other foreign visitors. The village itself, a collection of white-washed lodging-houses, with trim green blinds, has nothing Swiss in its character. Still, however, though no longer a place of retirement, Interlaken must not be disparaged; its almost endless walks and rides, its boating parties on the two lakes, its picnics and balls, would, in the society of friends, afford amusement for a season. In front of the lodging-houses runs a magnificent *Avenue of huge Walnut-trees*, most inviting from its cool shade.

*Excursions.* (a) The wooded slopes of the *Harder*, a hill on the opposite bank of the Aar, are rendered accessible by easy paths, commanding a delightful view. Keep to the paths, and beware of the slippery and really dangerous grass along the ridge: an English lady perished here in 1850. (b) The

*Rugen*, distance about 2 m., commands a very beautiful view. Walks and drives have been cut through the adjoining woods. (c) The old *Castle of Unspunnen* is within an easy walk even for ladies; while (d) the \**Giessbach* falls, (e) *Lauterbrunnen*, with the *Staubbach*, and (f) *Grindelwald* with its glaciers, are within a short morning's row or ride. (g) The top of the *Wengern Alp* may be reached from this in 5 hrs., and (h) the *Faulhorn* in 6 hrs. (i) The *Morgenberg*, sometimes called *Gumihorn* (7400 ft.), is easy of ascent, and commands a remarkably fine view. It is the extremity of the range which walls in the lake of Brienz on the S. (j) The "*Schynige Platte*," which crown the l. portal of the *Lauterbrunnen* valley. The view from it is one of the finest that can be obtained of the *Oberland* range, and for ladies it is the easiest of access. A carriage takes  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to *Gsteig*. The same horses are used for the ascent, which leaves the *Lauterbrunnen* road immediately behind the ch. of *Gsteig*, and reaches the *Schynige Platte* in 3 hrs. (*Inn*, small, good). The view comprises the whole range of the *Oberland Mts.*, from the *Wellhorn* to the *Blumlis Alp*. The mule-path up to the *Inn* is good, thence a rough path, not fit for mules, leads in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the *Taubenhorn*, whence the view is panoramic. A footpath leads from the *Schynige Platte* in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to the *Faulhorn*. (k) Another interesting excursion is that of the *Suleck*, whose summit may be reached in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by *Isenfluh*. Many others of the surrounding mountains will repay an ascent. The streams usually originate in small glaciers, not seen from the valley. They are described in the following tour of the *Oberland*. The view from the churchyard of *Aeschi*, on the S. shore of the lake of *Thun*, forms a deserving object of a day's excursion. You leave the carriage-road to *Thun* at *Leisigen*, and take a footpath on the l. along a lane for 5 m. The carriage may wait at *Spietz*. (See *Rte. 37.*)

At *Urfer's Subscription Reading-room* and *Library* 'The Times,' 'Galignani,' 'Débats,' &c., are taken in.

The *English Church Service* is performed every Sunday twice in the Old church by an English clergyman, for whom a small stipend is formed by voluntary contributions among his countrymen.

*Dr. Mani*, physician, speaks English, and keeps an *English dispensary*. His goat's *whay* establishment is much resorted to by invalids.

*Post-office* and *Telegraph* at Unterseen.

*Horses or Mountain-ponies* may be hired at Interlaken at 11 fr. a-day, bonnemain included, for one pony, or 10 fr. each when several are taken. *Guides* abound, and are paid by tariff, at the rate of 6 to 8 frs. per diem, but expect 1 fr. bonnemain. *Carriages* are charged 10 frs. a-day for 1 horse, 20 frs. for 2. Instances of gross misconduct are very rare; but there is no remedy except an appeal to a magistrate, who usually seems to consider the tourist fair game. Ask for the *printed Tariff* put forth by the authorities.

On many excursions (as to Mürren, Schynige Platte, Wengern Alp, &c.) it is customary to drive as far as the road will permit, then take out the horses and saddle them for the ascents.

#### B. Interlaken to Lauterbrunnen,

About 2 hours' walk—a drive of 1½ h. Carriage there and back, with a halt of 2 hrs., one horse, 8 fr.; two horses, 15 fr. After passing a tract of verdant meadow-land, on which great wrestling-matches (one of which has been described by Madame de Staël) are periodically held, the road passes on the rt. the *Castle of Unspunnen*: it is in a very dilapidated state, but a square tower, with a flanking round turret, rise picturesquely above the brushwood surrounding them. It is the reputed residence of Manfred, and its position in front of the high Alps renders it not unlikely that Byron may have had it in his eye. The real owners of the castle were the barons of Unspunnen, a noble and ancient race, who were lords of the whole

Oberland, from the Grimsel to the Gemmi. Burkard, the last male descendant of this family, had a beautiful and only daughter, Ida, who was beloved by a young knight attached to the Court of Berchtold of Zähringen, between whom and Burkard a deadly feud had long subsisted. Under such circumstances the youthful Rudolph of Wadenswyl, despairing of obtaining the father's consent to their union, scaled the castle-walls by night, carried Ida off, and made her his bride. Many years of bloody strife between the two parties followed this event. At length Rudolph, taking his infant son by Ida along with him, presented himself, unarmed and without attendants, to Burkard, in the midst of his stronghold. Such an appeal to the old man's affections and generosity was irresistible; he melted into tears, forgot his wrongs, and, receiving his children into his bosom, made Rudolph's son the heir of his vast possessions. At the time of the reconciliation, the old baron had said, "Let this day be for ever celebrated among us;" and rural games were in consequence, for many years, held on the spot. These were revived in 1805 and 1808, and consisted of gymnastic exercises, wrestling, pitching the stone, &c., in which the natives of the different cantons contended with one another, while spectators from far and near collected on a natural amphitheatre.

At Gsteig village the ascent of the *Schynige Platte* (described above) commences.

Leaving behind the village of Mühlinen, whose inhabitants are sadly afflicted with goitre (§ 18), the road plunges into the narrow and savage gorge of the torrent *Lütschine*. Not far up, the road passes a spot of evil repute as the scene of a fratricide—"just the place for such a deed." It was marked by an inscription in the face of a projecting rock, called, from the murder, the Evil Stone (*Böse Stein*), or Brother's Stone. The encroachments of the river upon the road rendered it necessary to blast a portion of the rock in order to widen

the carriageway, in doing which the inscription has been displaced.

At the hamlet of Zweilütschinen, about two miles from the entrance of the valley, it divides into two branches: that on the l., from which flows the Black Lütschine, is the valley of Grindelwald. The carriage-road to Grindelwald (Rte. c) crosses the bridge and leads up the valley, terminated by the gigantic mass and everlasting snows of the Wetterhorn (Rte. 25 d); that of the rt., traversed by the White Lütschine, is the valley of the Lauterbrunnen, and it ought to be visited first.

The valley of Lauterbrunnen is remarkable for its depth, its contracted width, and for the precipices of limestone, nearly vertical, which enclose it like walls. Its name, literally translated, means "nothing but fountains;" and is derived, no doubt, from the number of streamlets which cast themselves headlong from the brows of the cliffs into the valley below, looking at a distance like so many pendulous white threads.

The road to Lauterbrunnen passes under the base of a colossal precipice, called Hunnenflue, whose face displays singular contortions in the limestone strata. If the clouds permit, the summit of the Jungfrau now bursts into sight; and soon after, surmounting a steep slope, we reach

*Lauterbrunnen.* Inns: Capricorn (Steinbock), rather dear; H. Staubbach, moderate: horses are kept here.

This village contains about 1350 Inhab., dwelling in rustic houses, scattered widely apart, along both banks of the torrent. It lies 2450 ft. above the sea, so sunk between precipices that, in summer, the sun does not appear till 7 o'clock, and in winter not before 12. Only the hardier species of grain grow here, and the climate is almost too rough for pears and apples. About 30 shoots of water dangle from the edge of the ramparts which form the sides of the valley; and, when their tops are enveloped in clouds, appear to burst at once from the sky: many of them are dried up in summer. These minor falls, how-

ever, are all eclipsed by that of the *Staubbach*, distant about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from the inn. It is one of the loftiest falls in Europe, measuring between 800 and 900 feet in height; and from this cause, and from the comparatively small body of water forming it, it is shivered by the wind into spray like dust long before it reaches the bottom (whence its name—literally, *Dust-stream*).

Strangers, who expect in the Staubbach the rushing and roaring rapidity of a cataract, will here be disappointed; but, in the opinion of many, this want is atoned for by other beauties peculiar to this fall. The friction of the rock, and the resistance of the air, retard the descent of the water, giving it, when seen in front, the appearance of a beautiful lace veil suspended from the precipice, and imitating, in its centre, the folds of the drapery. When very full, it shoots out from the rock, and is bent by the wind into flickering undulations. Byron has described it admirably, both in prose and verse:—

"The torrent is in shape, curving over the rock, like the tail of a white horse streaming in the wind—such as it might be conceived would be that of the 'pale horse' on which Death is mounted in the Apocalypse. It is neither mist nor water, but a something between both: its immense height gives it a wave or curve—a spreading here or condensation there—wonderful and indescribable."—*Journal.*

"It is not noon—the sunbow's rays still arch  
The torrent with the many hues of heaven,  
And roll the sheeted silver's waving column  
O'er the crags headlong perpendicular,  
And fling its lines of foaming light along,  
And to and fro, like the pale courser's tail,  
The giant steed to be bestrode by Death,  
As told in the Apocalypse." *Manfred.*

The Staubbach is seen to perfection before noon, when the iris formed by the sun falling full upon it, "like a rainbow come down to pay a visit—moving as you move," and the shadow of the water on the face of the rock, give an additional interest. At other times it is as well seen from the inn as from the nearest point which can be reached without becoming drenched

with spray. Wordsworth has called it "a sky-born waterfall;" and when the clouds are low and rest on the sides of the valley, it literally appears to leap from the sky. In winter, when the torrent is nearly arrested by the frost, a vast pyramid of ice is formed by the dripping of the water from above, increasing gradually upwards in the manner of a stalagmite, until the colossal icicle reaches nearly half way up the precipice. There is a smaller upper fall above the one seen from Lauterbrunnen. A footpath leads up to it in  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour, but few think it worth the trouble of the ascent.

Ulrich Lauener, of Lauterbrunnen, is a celebrated guide. A younger brother, Christian Lauener, is a good and steady guide.

[A very *Interesting \*Excursion* may be made from Lauterbrunnen to the range immediately E. of the village. About 200 yards beyond the village a good horse-road ascends rapidly to the rt., crosses the stream of the Staubbach above the falls, and reaches in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. the highland village of Mürren.

\**Inn* (H. du Silberhorn); it is well to agree about prices beforehand, especially if you stay 2 or 3 days. The view of the Oberland chain is very fine, and is further improved by ascending to a point about half an hour above the inn. The Jungfrau is seen from top to bottom, better than from Wengern Alp. But the main object of attraction is the adjoining peak of the *Schilthorn* (9799 Eng. ft.), commanding one of the finest views in the whole range of the Alps. It may be reached from Mürren in from 3 to 4 hrs., the greater part of the way by an excellent horse-path, but at the end over some snow, by a steep and rather difficult ascent, in some states of the snow. It has been frequently accomplished by ladies. A melancholy catastrophe occurred here, 1865: Mrs. Arbuthnot, while making the ascent with her husband, was struck dead by lightning. Mountaineers may descend into the *Seefinen-Thal* (Rte. 36), and thence into the Upper Valley of Lauterbrunnen. Guides may be had in abundance at

Mürren. The *Passes of Furke and Diendengrat* were traversed by two English ladies, with two guides and a mule, from Kandersteg to Mürren, in 15 hrs., in 1866. (See Rte. 36.)

#### *Upper Valley of Lauterbrunnen.*

Of the multitudes who visit Lauterbrunnen, a very small proportion trouble themselves to explore the upper part of the valley, the scenery of which is of the highest order of beauty. The fall of the *Schmadribach* is quite a sufficient object for a day's excursion; being, in truth, inferior to few in Switzerland. It is a large body of water, which, issuing from the glacier, throws itself immediately over a precipice of great height, and again makes two more leaps, of inferior height, but great beauty, before reaching the bottom of the valley. The road on leaving Lauterbrunnen continues nearly on a level, underneath the magnificent crags of the Black Monk, while numerous cascades of the Staubbach character, leap from the lofty crags on the rt. into the valley.

The curious little cascade of the *Trümmelbach*, issuing from a deep ravine under the Jungfrau, may be visited by the way. The road as far as Steckelberg, about 1 hr. from Lauterbrunnen, is practicable for a small char, beyond that place it is so narrow that horses can alone go for another  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr., as far as the hamlet of *Trachsel Lauinen*, opposite which will be seen the remains of an avalanche, called by the same name, which falls annually from the Jungfrau, and spreads its ruins over a surface of many hundred acres. An hour farther, in which there is a steep ascent to be surmounted, stands a single chalet, near the foot of the lower fall; from which there is  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour's sharp ascent to the foot of the upper fall. Deciduous trees cease below Trachsel Lauinen; thence to the fall, the way lies generally through pine forests, and the pasturage is abundant to a much greater height. High above tower the summits of the chain, which, branching from the



Jungfrau, is continued in an unbroken line of ice to the Gemmi.

If the path hitherto taken to the upper fall be still further followed, it leads over some marshy land and, in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. sharp ascent to the rt., to the highest pasturages in this part of the Alps, immediately under the glaciers of the Breithorn. The view hence is very fine. The Steinberg (Rte. 35) may be easily reached by descending a rather faintly-marked path to the rt., leading close to the Tschingel glacier, and in  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. to a cowhouse. The stream must here be crossed, and the higher path followed, when the Steinberg is attained almost on a level. The view from this point is magnificent, and embraces the whole range of the giants of this portion of the Alps from the Jungfrau to the Blumli, in close proximity. It is quite possible to descend from the Steinberg and ascend the Mürren without going into the valley. The path is not difficult to find, as it is tolerably well marked near the Steinberg chalet, and its direction thence easily seen. It enters the mule-road to Mürren near the fine fall of the stream, issuing from the Sefinen Thal.

c. *Lauterbrunnen to Grindelwald*.—a. *By the char-road.* b. *By the Wengern Alp.*

Both Lauterbrunnen and Grindelwald may be visited in one rather long day from Interlaken, returning in the evening. If the Wengern Alp route is chosen, a char may be taken at Interlaken, and the saddle-horses may be used to draw the char, saddles being taken with it. The char may then be left at Lauterbrunnen, and will be run down by boys to the junction of the Grindelwald road, where it will be found by the tourists, who will in the mean time have crossed the Wengern Alp, and come down from Grindelwald on the char-horses. One horse, 20 fr.; two horses, 40 fr. for this expedition.

a. By the high-road the time occupied in going from Lauterbrunnen to Grindelwald is about 2 hrs.—the dis-

tance about 9 m. It is necessary to return down the valley as far as the Zwei-Lutschinen, then, crossing the White, to ascend, by the side of the Black Lutschine, a long ascent through a valley, not unlike that of Simla at the base of the Himalayas, with the precipices of the Wetterhorn and the peaks of the Eiger in the background. Nearer to Grindelwald the two glaciers appear in sight.

b. In fine weather there are few more interesting or exciting journeys on horseback among the Alps than that over the *Wengern Alp*, or *Lesser Scheideck*. Independently of the glorious view of the Jungfrau, and other giants of the Bernese chain, it is from the Wengern Alp that avalanches are seen and heard in greatest perfection, and no one should abandon the expedition without an effort. It occupies 7 hrs., including 2 hrs. halt at the summit. It is constantly traversed by ladies on horseback, or in a chaise à porteur (§ 10). Those who are at all able to walk need take a horse to the summit only, for which one day is charged; for the whole journey, 1½ day.

The bridle-path turns off at the chapel nearly opposite the Staubbach, and after crossing the river ascends steep zigzags, which lead out of the valley of Lauterbrunnen, in order to surmount the ridge separating it from that of Grindelwald. After nearly an hour of toilsome ascent, passing the houses of a scattered hamlet, it reaches a more gradual slope of meadow land. The valley of Lauterbrunn, beneath whose precipices the traveller has previously crept with some little awe, presents from this height the aspect of a mere trench; the Staubbach is reduced to a thin thread, and its upper fall, and previous winding, before it makes its final leap, are exposed to view and looked down upon. The path winds to the rt. round the shoulder of the hill, and then, becoming steep and slippery, crosses the meadows advancing towards the Jungfrau, which now rises in front of the spectator, with its vast expanse of snow and glacier, in all its magnificence. Not only its

summit, but all the mass of the mountain above the level of the spectator, is white with perpetual snow of virgin purity, which breaks off abruptly at the edge of a black precipice, forming one side of a ravine separating the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp. It appears to be within gun-shot of the spectator—so colossal are its proportions, that the effect of distance is lost.

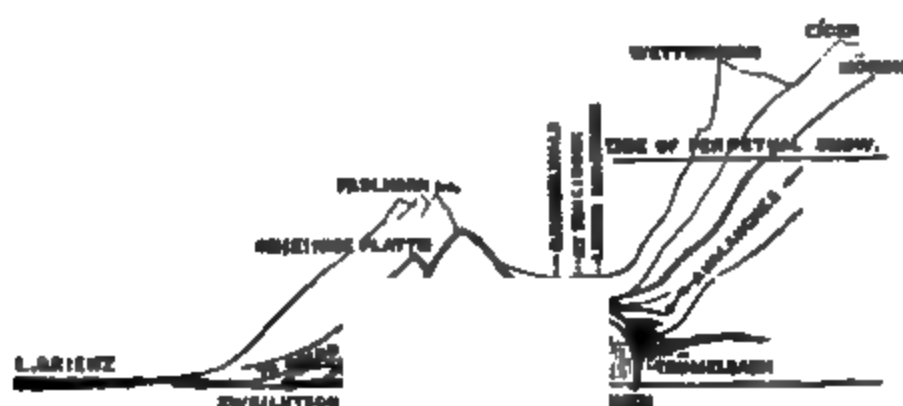
About half an hour's walk short of the col of the Lesser Scheideck (where also there is an Inn) is a very tolerable Inn, *H. de la Jungfrau*, containing 20 beds to accommodate strangers who choose to await the sunrise at this elevation, on the brow of the ravine, 5350 ft. above the sea-level, directly facing the Jungfrau. From this point the mountain is best seen, as well as the avalanches descending from it. The precipice before alluded to, which forms the base of the mountain, is channelled with furrows or grooves, down which the avalanches descend. They are most numerous a little after noon, when the sun and wind exercise the greatest influence on the glacier in loosening masses of it, and causing them to break off.

The attention is first arrested by a distant roar, not unlike thunder, and in half a minute, a gush of white powder, resembling a small cataract, is perceived issuing out of one of the upper grooves or gullies; it then sinks into a low fissure, and is lost only to reappear at a lower stage some hundred feet below; soon after another roar, and a fresh gush from a lower gully, till the mass of ice, reaching the lowest step, is precipitated into the gulf below. By watching attentively the sloping white side of the Jungfrau, the separation of the fragment of ice from the mass of the glacier which produces this thunder, may be seen at the moment when disengaged and before the sound reaches the ear. Sometimes it merely slides down over the surface, at others it turns over in a cake; but in an instant after it disappears, is shattered to atoms, and, in passing through the different gullies, apparently ground

to a fine powder. Independent of the sound, which is an awful interruption of the silence usually prevailing on the high Alps, there is nothing grand or striking in these falling masses: and, indeed, it is difficult, at first, to believe that these echoing thunders arise from so slight a cause in appearance. The spectator must bear in mind that they are at the distance of 1 m. from him, that at each discharge whole tons of ice are hurled down the mountain, and that the seeming dust to which it is reduced includes blocks capable of sweeping away large trees, if such occurred in their course. During the early part of the summer three or four such discharges may be seen in an hour; in cold weather they are less numerous; in the autumn scarcely any occur. The avalanches finally descend into the valley of Trümle-ten, the uninhabited ravine dividing the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp, far deeper than travellers along the mule-track have any idea of; and, on melting, send forth a stream which falls into the Lutschine, a little above Lauterbrunnen.

[*Near View of the Avalanches.*—Mr. F. Galton drew attention in 1863 to the view by the side of the gully immediately facing the Jungfrau hotel, to which the avalanches from the Jungfrau converge, a point which may be reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.—1 hr. on horseback—quite easily and safely by descending into the Trümle-ten valley, crossing the stream by a bridge, traversing a narrow band of avalanche snow fallen from the Eiger, and then mounting to the gully. The path is perfectly simple and easy, save up two low terraces of steep rock, where the present absence of foot-hold (steps might easily be quarried) necessitates the assistance of a guide and rope. On arriving at the side of the gully a near view of the avalanches can be enjoyed as safely as that of a waterfall. First a prodigious roar is heard over head, then a storm of ice-halls tears through the gully and dashes forth like a cataract upon a long slope of ice and snow. Down this they slide swiftly, with a hissing noise, into





Section to show the nature of the View from the Wengern Alp, Felhorn, Schneide Platte, &c.

the depths of the valley. Gushes of water accompany each discharge. The ice cliffs that supply the avalanches tumble 2000 ft. before they reach the head of the gully, which itself is 1000 ft. high: consequently the fragments of ice have time to be ground into perfect balls. They are usually 1 ft. in diameter, rarely more than 2 ft. They form a narrow band of ice and snow, extending nearly 2000 ft. in additional descent, from the foot of the gully to the almost inaccessible bottom of the lower valley.]

A part of Lord Byron's 'Manfred' was either written or mentally composed on the Wengern Alp, in full view of the Jungfrau. He says in his Journal, "Heard the avalanches falling every five minutes nearly. The clouds rose from the opposite valley, curling up perpendicular precipices, like the foam of the ocean of hell during a spring tide—it was white and sulphury, and immeasurably deep in appearance. The side we ascended was not of so precipitous a nature; but, on arriving at the summit, we looked down upon the other side upon a boiling sea of cloud, dashing against the crags on which we stood—these crags on one side quite perpendicular. In passing the masses of snow, I made a snowball, and pelted Hobhouse with it."—*Swiss Journal*,

"Ye toppling crags of ice—  
Ye avalanche, whom a breath draws down  
In mountainous o'erwhelming, come and crush  
me!  
I hear ye momentarily above, beneath,

Crash with a frequent conflict; but ye pass,  
And only fall on things that still would live;  
On the young flourishing forest, or the hut  
And hamlet of the harmless villager.  
The mists boil up around the glaciers; clouds  
Rise curling far beneath me, white and sul-  
phury,  
Like steam from the roared ocean of deep hell!"  
Manfred.

A day may be enjoyably spent on the Wengern Alp in thoroughly taking in the grand scenery which it commands. The Lauberhorn, with a more extensive and varied view, may be easily reached in about 1½ hr. from either of the inns on the pass.

Beyond the Jungfrau Hotel the track is tolerably level, and in about 2 miles the col or summit of the pass is attained (8890 ft.), where also there is a tolerable Inn (H. Bellevue). The view is very fine, including, besides the Jungfrau, the Mönch, the two Eighers, and the Wetterhorn. Travellers should on no account omit walking ½ hr. to the very verge of the valley (local jealousies have prevented the formation of a footpath). They should walk past the flagstaff, and keep gently rising, following the ins and outs of the small spurs in their way, and past a watering-place for cattle, till they arrive suddenly on the edge of a cliff overlooking the Trimleten Thal, and become aware of its little suspected depths and the avalanche debris which strew its bottom. The grandeur of the Jungfrau range greatly rises in the estimation of those who have seen it from here. The Jungfrau, or Virgin, received its

name either from the unsullied purity of the snow, or because its crest was long deemed inaccessible to human foot. Like most of the other peaks of the Alps, she has lost her claim to the title on the latter score, the highest peak having most probably been reached for the first time in 1811, and again in 1812, by the brothers Meyer, of Aarau; it was again attained in 1828 by 6 peasants from Grindelwald; and, in August, 1841, by M. Agassiz, of Neuchâtel, accompanied by Professor Forbes, of Edinburgh. The course they pursued was by the Ober-Aar glacier to that of Viesch, and then by following up the Aletsch glacier from the Marjelen-see. It has since been ascended by M. Studer and by several English travellers. The Jungfrau rises to an elevation of 13,671 ft. above the sea-level. Farther on appear the Mönch, or Klein Eigher, 13,438 ft., and the Great Eigher (Giant), 13,044 ft. On approaching Grindenwald, the Schreckhorn (Peak of Terror), 13,394 ft., comes into sight. The sharp, needle-formed point of the Finster-Aarhorn, the highest peak in Switzerland, 14,039 ft. above the sea-level, is only visible at intervals peering above his brethren. The glaciers, which cling around these peaks, and fill up the depressions between them, extend without interruption from the Jungfrau to the Grimsel, and from Grindelwald, in canton Berne, nearly to the hamlets of Viesch and Möril, in the Valais. The extent of this glacier field has been calculated at 115 square miles, or about one-sixth of all the glaciers among the Alps.

The descent to Grindelwald takes up about 2½ hrs., milk, strawberries, and beggars at frequent intervals by the wayside. The path is steep, and for 20 min. lies over marshy ground. It passes within sight of a forest said to have been mown down by the fall of avalanches, but more probably decaying, as is not unusual on the higher grounds at present. The trunks, broken short off close to the ground, still stand like stubble cut by the scythe. Byron describes

“whole woods of withered pines—all withered; trunks stripped and barkless; branches lifeless; done by a single winter—their appearance reminded me of me and my family.”

In descending into the valley, the *Wetterhorn* (ascended by Mr. Wills in 1855) is seen in front, and on the l. the *Faulhorn*, surmounted by its inn. On the rt., low down, appears the white lower glacier of Grindelwald, issuing out of a gorge, on a level with the habitations of the valley.

*Grindelwald.*—*Inns*: Bär (Bear) at the W. of the village; Adler (Eagle) at the E. end,—both very fair. The pension of the Adler is a charming residence. English Church Service in summer.

The village of Grindelwald, consisting of picturesque wooden cottages, widely scattered over the valley, stands at a height of 3250 ft. above the sea, from which cause, and from its vicinity to the glaciers, the climate of the valley is cold, and unstable even in summer. Its inhabitants are chiefly employed in rearing cattle, of which 6000 head are fed on the neighbouring pastures; and many act as guides. The younger females pick up a few halfpence by singing *Ranz de Vaches* at the inns, and most of the children are beggars—occupations arising from the influx of strangers into the valley, which has exercised an injurious influence upon its morals and ancient simplicity of manners. The valley has not been inhabited above 400 years, and the peasants assert that the climate becomes gradually worse, and give instances which seem to bear out their statement. It is certain that there were in former days several paths into the Valais which are now impassable; and it is said that the peasants of Grindelwald used to cross to the Valais to be married.

Grindelwald owes its celebrity, as a place of resort for travellers, to the grandeur of the mountains which surround it, and to its two *Glaciers* (§ 16), which, as they descend into the very bottom of the valley below the level of the village, and almost within a

stone's-throw of human habitations, are more easily accessible here than in other parts of Switzerland. Three gigantic mountains form the S. side of the valley—the Eigher, or Giant; the Mettenberg (Middle Mountain), which is, in fact, the base or pedestal of the magnificent peak called Schreckhorn; and the Wetterhorn (Peak of Tempests), at the upper end. Between these three mountains the two glaciers of Grindelwald issue out. They are branches of that vast field or ocean of ice mentioned above as occupying the table-land and high valleys amidst the Bernese Alps, and, being pushed downwards by the constantly-increasing masses above, descend far below the line of perpetual snow (§ 16). Their chief beauty arises from their being bordered by forests of fir, which form, as it were, a graceful fringe to the white ice, while the green pastures, with which they are almost in contact near the base, contrast agreeably with their frozen peaks. Though inferior in extent to those of Chamouni, of the Aar and of Aletsch, the traveller who has seen even them will do well to explore the Glaciers of Grindelwald.

*Guides.*—Peter Bohren, *facile princeps*, from his many ascents; Christen Almen; Ch. and Pierre Michel; Jean Baumann; Ulrich Kaufmann.

*The Lower Glacier*, also called the smaller, although four times as large as the upper one, forces its way out between the Eigher and Mettenberg, and it descends to a point only 3200 feet above the level of the sea. A path ascends along its left margin, beneath the precipices of the Mettenberg, and past a chalet (Bärenegg, 2 hrs. walk) where wine can be got, commanding a view of the bristling minarets of ice, of the lower portion of the glacier, and affording means of paying a visit to its middle portion, which is *one of the pleasantest excursions on the Alps*; with a local guide occupying 5 or 6 hrs. in the whole, including 1 or 2 on the ice, and not fatiguing. It is not good for timid persons, as the path skirts some formidable precipices, and the recent

shrinking of the ice compels travellers to descend by a ladder of perhaps 50 steps, clamped to the face of the cliff, a small fee is paid for descending it; but it is taken by ladies, who may ride on horseback for the first  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr., and be conveyed to the ladder in a chaise à porteur. This excursion offers to those who cannot mount great heights one of the grandest and wildest glacier views imaginable, the cultivated valley being completely hidden, and nothing visible but the enormous peaks of the Eigher, Schreckhorn, Viescherhörner, &c., which form a superb amphitheatre, very little inferior to the scene from the Jardin. In 1821 M. Mouron, a clergyman of Vevay, was lost in one of the crevices. Suspicions were entertained that the guide who accompanied him had murdered him, and search was immediately commenced for the body. After 12 days of fruitless attempts, it was at length drawn out by a guide, who was let down from above by a rope with a lantern tied to his neck. The watch and the purse of the unfortunate man were found upon him, so that the suspicions regarding the guide were proved to be groundless. He was buried in the church of Grindelwald.

In following the path to the chalet we arrive at a singular depression in the rocks, called *Martinsdruck*, pointed out to the traveller, and opposite to it, in the crest of the Eigher, a small hole, called *Martinsloch*, through which the sun's rays shine twice a-year. Once on a time, according to the tradition, the basin now occupied by the Eismeer was filled with a lake, but the space between the Mettenberg and the Eigher being much narrower than at present, the outlet from it was constantly blocked up, and inundations produced, which ruined the fields of the peasants in the valley below. At length St. Martin, a holy giant, came to their rescue; he seated himself on the Mettenberg, resting his staff on the Eigher, and then, with one lusty heave of his brawny back, not only burst open the present wide passage between the two mountains, but left

the marks of his seat on the one, and drove his walking-stick right through the other.

A very fine avalanche is occasionally seen from this path to fall from the precipices on the other side of the glacier. In about 2 hrs'. walk from Grindelwald the path reaches the place where it becomes necessary to take to the level ice, and the ladder is descended. The path thus far is the beginning of the Strahleck pass (Rte. 27 A). The tourist may now take a promenade on the ice to the chalets of Stiereck, or making a partial circuit round the Mettenberg, climb it as high as he has a mind. At every step the grandeur of the ice-field in front of him increases.

At the foot of the lower Glacier  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the Inn, is a grotto hewn in the ice, the beauty of the blue light transmitted through its walls repays the 50 cents the maker of it exacts from visitors. The foot of the glacier is otherwise as dirty and unattractive as the feet of glaciers usually are.

An extensive quarry of ice for the markets of Paris and elsewhere has been established here, and is in full operation after the busy season of the year. Hundreds of workmen hew squared blocks, which are wheeled to a cottage on the west end of Grindelwald, thence it is carted to Neuhaus, shipped to Thun, and taken direct to its destination by rail.

[The glacier passes from Grindelwald to the *Æggischhorn* are five in number, and occupy respectively from 16 to 22 hrs. actual walking. Those between the *Mönch* and the *Viescher Hörner*, and between the *Mönch* and the *Jungfrau*, are the shortest. The former is the easier, the latter is said to be the noblest of all.]

The *Upper Glacier* may be visited in going over the *Scheideck*. The ice of its lower portion has an unusually clean and pure surface.

### *Ascent of the Faulhorn.*

The Faulhorn is a mountain 8674 ft. above the sea-level, situated between the valley of Grindelwald and the lake of Brienz, and commanding, from its summit, an excellent *near* view over the neighbouring chain of Bernese Alps. On this account it is ascended in the summer-time, like the Rigi, by travellers. It may be reached from Grindelwald, or from the summit of the great *Scheideck* pass, and from the *Schynige Platte*; or from the *Giesbach*, on the lake of Brienz—a nasty and dangerous path, not to be attempted without a guide—about 14 m.—by foot.

Ladies who do not ride may be carried from Grindelwald in “*chaises à porteurs*,” with 4 bearers to each chair, at 6 frs. each; or if the party sleep on the Faulhorn, 9 frs. A guide to the top is well paid with 6 frs., or 9 if they remain all night: a horse 15 frs. up and down; but 30 fr. (an extravagant price) is charged for horses from Interlaken. The *Inn* on the summit is closed in October. It has 24 beds and a fair larder, but the charges are extravagant! In the height of summer you must secure beds beforehand, or be early on the top. The path from Grindelwald leads over the *Bach Alp*, by the side of a small lake, 1000 ft. below the summit,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Grindelwald. The view of the Bernese Alps from the top forms the chief feature of the panorama, which in this respect, and from the proximity of the Faulhorn to those snowy giants, far surpasses the prospect from the Rigi. On the other hand, though the lakes of Thun and Brienz are both visible, only a small strip of each appears, which is but a poor equivalent for the wide expanse of blue water which bathes the foot of the Rigi.

A circuitous but tolerably easy path leads in 2 hrs. from the Faulhorn to the *Inn* at the summit of the *Scheideck*.

Those who cannot reach the summit of the Faulhorn will be well repaid for mounting its slope for an hour or two on the road, in order to

FROM FAULHORN.

get the fine view of the S. side of the Grindelwald valley, which cannot be seen from Grindelwald itself or from the bottom of the valley.

[A far superior expedition for moderate mountaineers, and not much longer, is to the top of the Schwartzhorn, from Rosenlani, or from the Great Scheideck. Take a rope. The view extends much more widely to the E. The mountain is some 1000 ft. higher, and is more isolated than the Faulhorn.]

D. *Grindelwald to Reichenbach or Meyringen, by the Great Scheideck.*

	Hours.
Grindelwald.	
Scheideck . . . . .	3
Rosenlani . . . . .	2
Reichenbach . . . . .	2½
	—
	7½

About 20 Eng. m.; 6 hrs. fast walking. On horseback, for ladies, it is a ride of at least 9 hours, including halts. No guide is required.

[An hour's walk up the valley from Grindelwald, and a slight détour to the rt. of the direct path to Meyringen, leads to the *Upper Glacier*. (See above.)

The first hour from Grindelwald is through the meadows in the valley; afterwards the ascent is easy, and during the whole of it the *Wetterhorn* (Peak of Tempests) overhangs the path, an object of stupendous sublimity. It rises in one vast precipice of alpine limestone, apparently close above the traveller's head, though its base is more than a mile off. Avalanches descend from it in the spring and summer through four different channels, sometimes, though very rarely, extending to the path, and travellers have been exposed to danger from them. Mr. Wills, in his 'Wanderings among the High Alps,' has given an interesting account of his ascent of the outermost, or most northerly, of the three peaks of the *Wetterhorn*, that whose sharp summit is seen in passing the Great Scheideck.

Upon the slope in front of the *Wetterhorn* a man usually stations

himself to blow the *alpine horn*, a rude tube of wood, 6 or 8 ft. long. A few seconds after the horn has ceased, the simple notes of the instrument are caught up and repeated by the echoes of the vast cliff of the *Wetterhorn*, and return to the ear refined and softened, yet perfectly distinct, as it were an aerial concert warbling among the crags.

The view down the valley of Grindelwald, from the Scheideck, is very striking: its green pastures contrast agreeably with the bare wall of the *Wetterhorn*. Beyond it, on the l., rises the sharp crest of the *Eiger*, resembling the up-turned edge of a hatchet. On the Scheideck (6480 ft. above the sea-level) stands an *Inn*, *Steinbock*, with rough sleeping and indifferent accommodation.

The prospect in the opposite direction, into the vale of the *Reichenbach* or of *Rosenlani*, is not so remarkable. Two small glaciers are seen suspended on shelves of the precipitous range connecting the *Wetterhorn* and *Wellhorn*; further on, between the *Wellhorn* and *Engel-hörner* (angels' peaks), the *Glacier of Rosenlani* lies embedded. By a détour to the rt. a curious glacier, the *Lower Glacier of Schwarzwald*, may be visited. It is composed altogether of snow and fragments of ice that fall from the upper part of the *Wetterhorn* into the valley which separates this part of the track. over the Scheideck, from the mountain. 1½ hr. in descending from the *Steinbock inn*, partly through a wood of firs, brings the traveller to the

*Baths of Rosenlani*, a clean *Inn*, rebuilt on a larger scale, *Bär*, 2 hrs. from the summit, very prettily situated, near a source of mineral water, resembling closely that of *Harrogate*, which supplies baths. Wood carving is very well executed here. A few yards behind it the *Reichenbach* torrent issues out of a cleft in the rock. About 20 min. from the baths is the *Glacier of Rosenlani*, which is smaller than those of Grindelwald, but is celebrated above all others in Switzerland for the untarnished purity of its white surface, and the clear transparent azure of its

icebergs. This peculiarity arises doubtless from its having no medial moraine (see § 16). The advance and retreat of the glacier may be very well observed here, as its bed is a flat rock, and this glacier is well worth a visit. A steep path on the l. of the glacier leads in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour to the summit of a cliff which projects midway into the icy sea, and bends its course considerably. It forms a good point of view. The torrent issuing from this glacier has worn a deep chasm in the mountain side, in which, from the frail bridge thrown across it, the waters may be seen boiling some 200 ft. below.

The path to Meyringen runs by the side of this stream, first crossing a charming little green plain, carpeted with soft turf, like that of an English lawn, and dotted with chalets. The view up the valley from this point deserves particular notice: it is a favourite subject for the pencil of the artist. The Wetterhorn, the Wellhorn, and the craggy peaks called Engel-hörner, form a mountain group unrivalled for picturesqueness.

Below this the valley contracts; numerous waterfalls are seen dangling from its sides: one of them, from its height and tenuity, is called the Rope-fall (Seilbach); and now a bird's-eye view opens out into the vale of Hasli, or Meyringen, which, in comparison with the narrow glens of Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen, deserves the name of a plain, though bounded by mountains high and steep.

The latter part of the descent leading into it is steep and rugged, and is paved with smooth and slippery blocks of stone. On this account travellers are usually invited to dismount, and descend on foot. The stream of the Reichenbach performs this descent of nearly 2000 ft. in a succession of leaps, the longest of which are the celebrated *Falls of the Reichenbach*. The upper fall is situated at a short distance to the l. of the road, near the village called Zwirghi. A small fee is exacted for the liberty to cross the meadow between it and the road, and a hut

called Belvedere is built beside it. But it is best seen from a rocky headland shooting out in front of the bare amphitheatre of cliffs over which the cataract dashes, and just above the struggling torrent, hurrying downwards after its fall. A little lower is another but inferior fall; and by a third, still lower, the stream gains the level of the valley, and hastens to join its waters to the Aar. The lowest fall is very near to the

*Reichenbach Hotel*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Rosenlauri, is, when not overcrowded, a comfortable house, making up 40 beds, at the foot of the mountain—hot and cold baths. Table-d'hôte 3 frs., bed 2 frs., breakfast 2 frs. H. des Alpes, also very comfortable. In fact, since the Reichenbach Hotel has been built and furnishes horses and chars, there is no necessity for going to Meyringen either on this route or on the Grimsel route. These hotels are distant about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., by a road and bridge over the Aar, from the village of

*Meyringen*—(Inns: Sauvage, best; ask for the fish called "Lotte;"—Couronne)—on the rt. bank of the Aar, the chief place in the vale of Hasli, an excellent specimen of a Swiss village (2516 Prot. Inhab.). The picturesqueness of its situation, on the rt. bank of the Aar, in the midst of a truly Alpine valley, is much praised. Its precipitous and wooded sides, streaked with white cascades almost without number, and here and there overtopped by some snow-white peak, are beautiful features. A *Stone Dyke* 1000 ft. long protects it from the inundations of the torrent Alpbach, which, subject to sudden rises, and cutting through loose shaly strata of lias marl, has more than once threatened to bury Meyringen in a torrent of mud and water. A line on the wall of the ch., 20 ft. from the ground, shows the height attained by the mud and gravel in 1762.

There are 2 Protestant churches here. Either in one of these, or at the Sauvage Hotel, *English Ch. service* is performed on Sundays in summer.

Travellers should visit the Fall of



the *Alpbach* about 9 in the morning, on account of the *triple bow*, or iris, formed in its spray when the sun shines on it. The inner iris forms nearly a complete circle, and the outer ones are more or less circular as the water in the falls is abundant or not. The spot whence it is visible is within the spray from the cataract, so that those who would enjoy it must prepare for a wetting.

On a rock above the village rise the ruins of the *Castle of Resti*: it belonged to an ancient and noble family, to whom the praise is given of never tyrannizing over their humble dependants.

The men of *Hasli* are celebrated for their athletic forms and strength. They hold *Schwingfeste*, or wrestling matches, every year, in July, August, and September, with their neighbours of Unterwalden and Grindelwald. The women, again, enjoy the reputation of being prettier, or rather less plain, than those of most other Swiss valleys. Their holiday costume is peculiar and not ungraceful, consisting of a bodice of black velvet reaching up to the throat, starched sleeves, a yellow petticoat, and a round black hat, not unlike a soup-plate, and about the same size, stuck on one side of the head, and allowing the hair to fall in long tresses down the back.

*Good Guides* here.

At Meyringen converge the carriage-roads—*a*, from Brienz; *b*, from Lucerne by the Brünig (Rte. 19); and the *Bridle-paths*—*c*, from the Grimsel (Rte. 26); the Falls of Handeck are  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. walk on the way thither; *d*, the Joch Pass to Engelberg (Rte. 32); *e*, the Susten to Wasen on the St. Gotthard; and the Gt. Scheideck to Rosenlauri and Grindelwald.

*E. Meyringen to Interlaken, by Brienz and the Giessbach Falls.—Rothhorn.*

$1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. drive or 9 Eng. m. to Brienz; char 7 fr.; *diligence* twice daily. Thence to Interlaken by water, 10 m.

There is an excellent carriage-road down the valley, passing numerous

cascades leaping down the wall of rock. After proceeding for about 4 m. along the l. bank of the Aar, it crosses the river by a wooden bridge, near Brienzwyler ( $5\frac{1}{2}$  m.), where the branch of the Brünig road leading to Brienz (Rte. 19) descends into the valley. The Aar pursues its course through monotonous marsh and flat meadow land; but near its influx into the Lake of Brienz, the form of the mountains on its l. bank, above which towers the Faulhorn, is grand. In skirting the margin of the lake, the road crosses heaps of *débris*, covering acres of land once fertile. A torrent of mud, in 1797, destroyed a considerable part of two villages near Kienholz; and a landslide from the Brienzgrat, the mountain immediately behind Brienz, overwhelmed, in November, 1824, 40 acres of land, and swept 6 persons into the lake.

*Brienz—Inns*: L'Ours, good; near the landing-place; Weisses Kreutz (Croix Blanche), clean, at Tracht (both rather dear). There is also an hotel at Kienholz, the Bellevue, about a mile from Brienz, towards Meyringen. Carriages may be hired at Brienz, over the Brünig Pass to Lungern: also to Meyringen or Reichenbach. Brienz is a village of 2284 Inhab., at the E. end of the lake, on a narrow ledge at the foot of the mountains, remarkable only for its beautiful situation, and its vicinity to the Giessbach Fall. Ask for the *Lotte*, a fish of the lake (*Gadus mustela*). This is a good place for buying carved wood-ware.

[From Brienz the traveller may ascend the *Rothhorn*, the highest point of the chain running behind (N. of) Brienz, which commands a view nearly as fine as the Faulhorn. Its top may be reached in about 4 hours by a stout walker, in 5 by a horse, and in 6 by a chaise à porteurs. The upward path lies at first through a region of fine forest-trees, chiefly beech, but including many oaks: to these succeed larch, and above them one-third of steep ascent over a bare and barren track. On the ascent, fine views are obtained through vistas in the forest of the Lake of Brienz. Near the top a *chalet* was built,

but it was destroyed by fire in 1846, and is not rebuilt. The summit is higher than the Rigi, and not so high as the Faulhorn. It takes 2 or 3 hrs. to descend. The chief features of the view are—S. the range of Bernese Alps, with a foreground of the lake of Brienz close under the mountain, and a peep of the lake of Thun in the gap above Interlaken. Besides this, the vale of Meyringen, from the lake of Brienz up nearly to the Grimsel, the range of the Titlis and Sustenhorn, the lake of Sarnen, with a small lake that may be seen in the foreground, a considerable part of the lake of Lucerne, the Rigi rising from it, and a bit of the lake of Zug, are visible. Pilate makes a prominent figure. The lake of Constance also appears, and a long strip of the lake of Neuchâtel. The view of the high Alps from the Rothhorn is not so fine as that from the Faulhorn, but that of the lower country is finer. A path from the summit to Lungern (Rte. 19).]

#### *Lake of Brienz.—Giessbach Falls.*

A small *Steamer* 3 times daily, in 1 hr., between Brienz and Interlaken, touching at the Giessbach every trip. Fares, 2 fr. and 1 fr. If the traveller misses the steamer, or prefers a row-boat, it takes about 3 hrs., including a digression to Giessbach. Boat 10 fr., 2 fr. bonnemain.

The lake of Brienz is about 8 m. long; its surface is 1781 ft. above the sea level; near the mouth of the Giessbach, 500 ft. deep, but in the deepest part 2100 ft. Its surface is about 30 ft. higher than the lake of Thun.

There is a carriage-road along the N. shore of the lake, between Interlaken and Brienz. By this and the new road of the Brünig the entire distance from Interlaken to the Lake of Lucerne is open for carriages. There is also a pretty footpath along the S. side of the lake by the Giessbach.

The steamer touches at the Giess-

bach every trip to and fro; but stops only to take in and let out passengers. It takes 25 minutes to row from Brienz to the landing-place, close to the outlet of the *Giessbach*, where travellers begin to ascend the very steep though excellent road, that leads in 20 min. to the *Falls*. They are a succession of cascades, leaping step by step from the top of the mountain; and, though inferior in height to the Reichenbach, surpass it in beauty, and in the adjuncts of a rich forest of fir, through the midst of which they break their way. The Giessbach is one of the prettiest of waterfalls: there is nothing wild about it, and the immediate contact of green turfy knolls and dark woods has the effect of a park scene. You can easily pass behind the third fall by means of a gallery constructed beneath the shelving rock, from which it casts itself down; and the effect of the landscape seen athwart this curtain of water is singular. The excellent *Giessbach Hotel*, 100 beds, belonging to a joint-stock company, close to the Falls, affords by far the best quarters in the Bernese Oberland. Paths have been cut through the woods to the best points of view; and the Falls are lighted up with Bengal lights every night from June to September. The effect is very beautiful, it is like a fairy scene at an opera; 1 fr. per head is charged in the Hotel bills, on account of it. Good specimens of the Swiss manufacture of carved wood may be purchased at the Giessbach, of the Kehrlis, descendants of the schoolmaster who first opened out the Giessbach to the world.

[There is a footpath from Giessbach Hotel to Brienzwyler on the road to Lucerne, by the Brünig, and to Meyringen.]

## ROUTE 26.

PASSES OF THE GRIMSEL AND FURCA—  
MEYRINGEN OR REICHENBACH TO THE  
RHONE GLACIER AND HOSPENTHAL.

	Hours.
Meyringen or Reichenbach.	
Guttanen . . . . .	3½
Handek . . . . .	1½
Grimsel Hospice . . . . .	2½
Rhone Glacier Inn. . . . .	2½
Furca	2½
Hospenthal } Carriage-road.	3½

A good char-road has been carried past Reichenbach Baths over the Kircheth to Imhof, beyond which is a much-frequented bridle-path.

This is an important line of communication to the tourist. It is striking in itself, for it passes the falls of Handek, and the glacier of the Rhone. Many and most interesting excursions also diverge from it.

To those coming from Brienz or down the Scheideck (Rte. 25 D), Reichenbach is the best starting point, and it is unnecessary to go to Meyringen. But those coming across the Brünig or from Meyringen cross the Aar by a wooden bridge, and in about 20 min. fall into the Reichenbach road.

The vale of Hasli now contracts, and in about 2 m. is crossed by a mound or hill near 800 ft. high, called the *Kircheth*, which appears at one time to have dammed up the waters of the Aar. At present they force their way through a singularly narrow rent, which cleaves the eminence from top to bottom, called the *Finster Aar Schlucht*, which extends by a precipitous but quite practicable descent, from the summit of the Kircheth to the Aar. It is a fissure in the limestone rock; and, from the great size of the opening, it would seem that a stream as large as the Aar must have passed through it. It may be seen without occasioning the traveller more than an hour's delay. There is a sign-post l. of the road to direct him to the "Finstern Aar Schlucht." The beautiful scenery at the upper mouth of the cavern, and the savage

grandeur of the perpendicular rocks, as the path emerges upon the margin of the Aar, will amply compensate the labour of the descent. On the Kircheth are erratic blocks of granite on the limestone. (See § 16). The path, leaving for a short time the river on the l. and the char-road on the rt., mounts the steep eminence of the Kircheth in zigzags, and then descends into the retired green valley of Upper Hasli, which is in the form of a basin, surrounded by hills, and was once probably a lake. [Two valleys open out into it; on the S. that of Urbach, on the E. that of Gadmen, up which runs the path leading by the pass of the Susten (Rte. 32) to Wasen. By taking the path to the rt. on descending from the Kircheth, a detour may be made into the Urbach Thal, the scenery of which is wild and striking. An ill-traced path along the W. slope of the valley of the Aar leads from the opening of the Urbach Thal to Guttanen.] On the l. lies the village Im-Grund, and, crossing the Aar, another village, called *Im-Hof*, situated between it and the Gadmen river, is passed;—all in the little plain. The char-road here ceases. From Im-Hof (*Inn*, good wine) a path branches off to Engelberg over the Joch pass (Rte. 33). Another ravine is succeeded by a second enlargement of the valley called Im-Boden. Higher up is the small and lonely village of

*Guttanen—Inn*, Bär. Travellers turn aside l. to view the Falls from below, about ½ m. short of

*Handek* (*Inn*, clean and good), usually selected for a midday halt to rest the mules. It is best to sleep here if it be late, and there be a chance of the Hospice being crowded. It stands close to the *Falls of the Aar*, perhaps the finest cataract in Switzerland, from its height (more than 200 ft.), the quantity and rush of water, the gloom of the gorge into which it precipitates itself, and the wild character of the rocky solitude around it. It is also remarkably easy of access, so that the traveller may form a full estimate of its grandeur; surveying it, first, from

below, through the vista of black rocks into which it plunges, and afterwards from above, stretching his neck over the brow of the precipice from which the river takes its leap, and watching it (if his nerves be steady) till it is lost in the spray of the dark abyss below.

The view from this point, not more than 5 or 6 ft. above the fall which few will hesitate to call the best, is exceedingly impressive and stimulating. So plentiful is the rush of water that it reaches more than halfway down in one unbroken glassy sheet before it is tossed into white foam; and, what adds to its beauty, is, that another stream (the Erlenbach or Handek), pouring in from the right at this very spot, takes precisely the same leap, mingling its tributary waters midway with the more powerful column of the Aar. Between 10 o'clock and 1 the iris may be seen hovering over the fall.

The dark forest of fir through which the route has wound for a considerable distance, now dwindles away into a few dwarf bushes, and disappears entirely a little above Handek. To them succeed the scanty vegetation of rank grass, rhododendron, and lichen; and even this partial covering disappears prematurely, in some places being abraded and peeled off. There is a spot about 2 m. above Handek, called *Böse Seite*, or *Helleplatte*, where the path crosses the bed of an ancient glacier which, in former times extending thus far down the valley, has ground smooth and polished, by its weight and friction, the surface of the sloping and convex granite rock, leaving, here and there upon the surface, horizontal grooves or furrows, which may be compared to the scratches made by a diamond upon glass. This polished rock (*roche montonnée*) extends for a space of nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Professor Agassiz has here left his autograph in the granite. It used to be customary and prudent to dismount here, and cross this bad bit of road on foot, since the surface of the rock, though chiselled into grooves, to secure a footing for the horses, was very slippery; but a secure

path, and a stout post and rail on the side of the abyss, is now carried over the slippery rock. The valley of the Aar, up which the narrow path is carried, looks stern and forbidding from its sterility, and the threatening cliffs of granite which overhang it. The Aar is crossed several times by dizzy bridges of a single arch, formed of granite slabs without a parapet.

There is but one human habitation between Handek and the Hospice, the miserable chalet of the Räterichsboden, where the ravine expands once more into a basin-shaped hollow, probably once a lake bed, with a marshy bottom, affording scanty herbage for a few goats, with a dismal valley leading to the mountain Nägeli's Grättli on the left. A little above this the path quits the Aar, which rises in the Aar-glacier, about 2 miles higher up on the rt., and ascending a glen, strewn with shattered rocks, reaches

The *Hospice of the Grimsel* (a large mountain Inn) was originally a conventual establishment, and after the Reformation was supported by the neighbouring communes, in order to shelter those who travel from necessity, and to afford a gratuitous aid to the poor. It is now daily occupied during the summer months by travellers for pleasure, sometimes to the number of 200 at once, who sit down at a table-d'hôte usually about 7 o'clock in the evening: the charges are not high. It is often so full in summer that those who arrive late are liable to fare ill, and it is often impossible to secure *single-bedded* rooms. It is a massy building of rough masonry, designed to resist a weight of snow, and with few windows to admit the cold. It contains 50 beds, in cells divided by thin partitions, and affords good fare, better far than might be expected in a spot more than 6000 ft. above the sea, and removed by many miles from any other human dwelling. The establishment includes a man cook, a washerwoman, and a cobbler, and they have clothes to lend to drenched travellers while their own are drying. It is occupied by the innkeeper who rents it from March

to November. One servant passes the winter in the house, with a sufficient provision to last out the time of his banishment, and two dogs, to detect the approach of wanderers, for even in the depth of winter the hospice is resorted to by traders from Hasli and the Valais, who exchange the cheese of the one valley for the wine and spirits of the other. Its situation is as dreary as can be conceived, in a rocky hollow, about 700 ft. below the summit of the pass, surrounded by barren slopes and steep precipices. The rocks around are bare and broken, scarcely varied by patches of snow, which never melt even in summer, and by strips of grass and green moss, which shoot up between the crevices, and are eagerly browsed by a flock of 150 goats. A considerable supply of peat is dug from a bog within a few yards of the door. In the bottom of this naked basin, close to the house, is a black tarn, or lake. Although entirely covered with deep snow in winter, it is rarely frozen, as it is supplied from a warm spring. Beyond it lies a small pasturage, capable of supporting for a month or two the cows belonging to the Hospice, and the servants cross the lake twice a-day, in a boat, to milk them. It is a landscape worthy of Spitzbergen or Nuova Zembla. This wilderness is the haunt of the marmot, whose shrill whistle frequently breaks the solitude; and the chamois, become rare of late, still frequents the neighbouring glaciers; both animals contribute at times to replenish the larder of the Hospice.

On the 22nd March, 1838, the Hospice was overwhelmed and crushed by an avalanche, which broke through the roof and floor, and filled all the rooms but that occupied by the servant, who succeeded with difficulty in working his own way through the snow, along with his dog, and reached Meyringen in safety. The evening before, the man had heard a mysterious sound, known to the peasants of the Alps and believed by them to be the warning of some disaster: it appeared so like a human voice that

the man supposed it might be some one in distress, and went out with his dog to search, but was stopped by the snow. The next morning the sound was again heard, and then came the crash of the falling avalanche. The Hospice has been rebuilt and enlarged since a fire caused, 1852, by an incendiary (the landlord, an old man 62 years of age, in order to obtain a renewal of his lease, which ran out 1853). His crime was discovered, owing to a change of wind, before the building was destroyed, and the criminal tried, and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment.

"In August, 1799, the Grimsel became the scene of one of the most remarkable skirmishes in the campaign. The Austrians were encamped upon the Grimsel with the view of preventing the French from penetrating into the Valley of the Rhone by that pass. They had possession of the whole declivity from the summit of the pass to the Hospice, and also of the platform on which the Hospice stands. Their force consisted of rather less than 1500 men. The French troops under General Gudín, consisting of about 3600 men, were posted in the Oberhasli valley in the neighbourhood of Guttanen. The Austrian commander, Colonel Strauch, naturally relied upon the strength of his position, which had not only the advantage of a great declivity, but of the numerous narrow fissures in the rocks, which might be defended by a few men, protected by the upright masses of granite, against a large army. The French General also considered the position to be impregnable to an attack in front, and was therefore placed in a situation of great anxiety by receiving positive orders from Massena, who had then the chief command of the French army in Switzerland, to force the pass of the Grimsel on the 14th of August. Fahner, the landlord of the Inn at Guttanen, then undertook for a reward to guide the French over a mountain called Nägeli's Grätli to the summit of the Grimsel at a higher level than the Austrian position.

"The next morning early Gudin confided about 400 men to the guidance of Fahner; and at the same time he sent a small detachment over and round the Sidelhorn, who were also to descend from the higher parts of that mountain upon the Grimsel, and there meet the party guided by Fahner over the mountain on the opposite side. Gudin himself advanced with the main body of his troops up the Oberhasli valley to the platform on which the Hospice now stands, and attacked the Austrian position in front—with the characteristic impetuosity of French soldiers. The Austrian commander was convinced that the attack could not succeed in this direction, but drew down the greater part of his force from the summit of the Grimsel in order to repel it with effect, and some sharp fighting ensued. Suddenly the Austrians were alarmed by firing on the heights to their rear: and its continuance, together with the appearance of French soldiers in that direction, convinced them that an important attack was commenced in a quarter from which they least expected it. The appearance of the enemy in their rear, with numbers as unknown as the means by which they came there, induced the Austrians to waver; and the impetuous advance of Gudin produced a panic which ended in a disorderly flight up the Grimsel in the direction of Obergesteln, in the valley of the Rhone. On the summit of the Grimsel, however, they again met with the enemy; for by this time the troops despatched by Gudin over the Sidelhorn had nearly reached their destination, and had almost effected their junction with the party led by Fahner. The number of the killed is supposed not to have exceeded 150, of which the French composed not more than a fifth part. The wounded Austrians were necessarily left to their fate, the nature of the ground rendering it impossible for such of their companions as escaped to remove them, and the French troops passing directly over into the valley of the Rhone."

The source of the Aar lies in two

enormous glaciers, the *Ober* and *Unter-Aar-Gletscher*, to the W. of the Hospice. The *Unter-Aar* glacier is the best worth visiting, and the lower extremity of the ice may be reached in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the Hospice. It is remarkable for the evenness of the surface of ice and the rareness of crevasses on its surface. It is about 14 m. long, and from 1 to 2 broad. At about 7 m. from its lower end the glacier divides into two branches. The rt. branch to the traveller ascending the glacier is the *Lauter Aar Glacier*; the l. branch, the *Finster Aar Glacier*. The two are separated by a steep rocky promontory called *Im Abschwung*, which forms the base of a huge ridge, whose other extremity immediately above Grindelwald is called the *Mettenberg*. The highest summit of this ridge seen by the traveller ascending the glacier is the formidable peak of the *Schreckhorn*. On the opposite or S. side of the *Finster Aar Glacier* is the still more imposing summit of the *Finster Aar Horn*, the highest of the Bernese Alps. Owing to its great dimensions, and the ease with which it may be traversed in most directions, the *Unter Aar Glacier* has long attracted those who wished to study thoroughly the singular phenomena of glaciers. In 1827 Hugi erected a rude hut on the glacier near the foot of the *Abschwung*. In 1840 the remains of this hut were found by Agassiz to have advanced about 4600 ft. In the following year M. Agassiz and a party of scientific friends established themselves in an equally rude shelter, on the medial moraine of the glacier, which they styled the *Hôtel des Neuchâtelais*. Here they continued during several successive seasons to carry on observations, which are recorded in the works of M. Agassiz. A more secure and convenient dwelling was finally provided by M. Dollfuss-Ausset of Mulhouse. It is a substantial hut on the l. bank of the glacier, called the *Pavilion*.

A *Panorama* of the Grimsel and the neighbouring peaks and glaciers may be seen from the top of the



*Sidelhorn*, a mountain on the rt. of the path leading to Brieg and the Furca; its summit may be reached in 3 hours from the Hospice; and from the Todten See Hotel the trip is still shorter. It is 9500 ft. above the sea-level. The ascent is not very difficult, and the view magnificent. It is possible to descend from the summit of the Sidelhorn to the Ober-Aar glacier, and thence by very rough ground to the lower end of the Unter-Aar glacier.

#### *Grimsel to Hospenthal by the Furca.*

About 7½ hrs. = say 19 Eng. m. It is 6½ hrs. walk, except when snow lies thick, when it may take 8. The bridle-path between the summit of the Grimsel and the glacier of the Rhone called *Mayenwand*, it is better to cross on foot than on horseback. Guide not necessary in fine weather, except to show the path in one or two places.

The summit of the pass of the Grimsel (7530 ft. above the sea, 700 ft. above the Hospice) is 2 m. from the Hospice; a steep path, marked by tall poles to guide the wayfarer, leads up to it. On the crest lies another small lake, called *Todten See*, or Lake of the Dead, from the corpses of French and Austrian soldiers, who were killed there in 1799 being thrown into it by way of burial. The sterility of the surrounding scene gives additional appropriateness to the name. An *Inn* has been built here (exactly 7000 ft.). There is a little-known pass from this point to the Gadmen-thal (Rte. 27 b). Along the crest of the mountain runs the boundary between Berne and the Valais, and just below it the path divides, that on the rt. going to Ober-Gestlen (Rte. 28). The pedestrian without a guide should be careful which path he takes. The Obergestlen path leaves the lake on the l., the Furca path leaves it on the rt.

From the gloomy little Lake of the Dead, skirting along the brink of a precipitous slope, it descends very rapidly. This portion of the way is the

worst of the whole, being very steep, slippery, and muddy. However, it soon brings the traveller in sight of the Glacier, though at a considerable depth below him. On attaining the bottom of the Mayenwand, he will find a really good *Inn* (H. du Glacier du Rhone), kept by Seiler of Zermatt, a good centre between Furca, Grimsel, and Eggischhorn. [By keeping to the l. on the descent the pedestrian with a guide may avoid part of the Mayenwand, and, crossing the glacier, he will fall into the path to the Furca.]

About ½ m. above the Inn the Rhone issues out to day at the foot of the

*Rhone Glacier*, one of the grandest in Switzerland, fit cradle for so mighty a stream. It fills the head of the valley from side to side, and appears piled up against the shoulder of the Gallenstock, whose tall peak overhangs it. The source of the Rhone, in a cavern of ice, is about 5400 ft. above the sea. If you pursue a track up the W. side, or rt. bank of the glacier, you come suddenly upon a very fine *waterfall*, rushing forth from the glacier, and dashing without a break into an icy cavern about 150 ft. below, sending forth clouds of freezing spray. This large body of water, after forming a passage for itself under the glacier, issues forth from the cavern at its foot.

The heights above the sea, in Eng. ft., of the Rhone at various points in its course are as follows:—At foot of glacier, 5750; at Brieg, 2302; at Sion, 1630; at Lake of Geneva, 1230; at Fort de l'Ecluse, 1066; at Seyssel, 802.

The road from the Rhone Glacier to Ober-Gesteln in Route 28.

A carriage-road was made over the Furca from Ober-Gesteln and the Rhone Glacier by the Swiss Government in 1866. A *Diligence* crosses daily from Brieg to Andermatt in 12 hrs. The new road ascends by bold zigzags to a great height along the side of the vast basin, having the glacier on the l. for a considerable distance, thus commanding the best view of this magnificent sea of ice, so that a correct idea may be formed of its extent and thickness, and of the



multiplicity of its yawning crevices. Except the Stelvio, no other carriage-road brings you into such intimacy with a glacier. From the higher terraces, where the road leaves the glacier to mount upwards, views, entirely lost on the old path, open out, of the entire Alpine chain from Monte Leone to Weisshorn, of the Galenstock, Mischabel, Dom, Spitzliberg, &c. The steepest part of the ascent is mastered by 7 sweeping zigzags through green pastures to the summit of the pass, or *Fork*, between two mountain peaks, from which it receives its name. From this point, 8150 ft. above the sea, near the Cross which marks the boundary of the cantons of the Valais and of Uri, there is a beautiful view of the Bernese Chain, the Finster-Aar-Horn being pre-eminent among its peaks. The top of the Furca is never altogether free from snow: there is no plain or level surface on it.

On the Furca is a good *Inn*, Müller's, with 25 beds. [It serves as convenient quarters for those who would enjoy the view from the *Furca Horn* (1 hr. above the inn) at sunset or sunrise. A more difficult enterprise, fit only for practised mountaineers, is the ascent of the Galenstock (about 11,900 Eng. ft.), which has been achieved more than once by travellers starting from the Furca Inn.]

From the Rhone Glacier Inn to the Furca Inn takes from 2½ to 3 hrs.; thence to Hospenthal about 1½ hr. The descent commences as soon as the crest is crossed, over the Sidli Alp, which is covered with pastures, but monotonous and uninteresting in its scenery, and destitute of trees. It is effected by the new road in a long series of serpentine windings. Not a house is seen between the Furca and

*Realp* (*Inn*: H. des Alpes). Hospice, kept by a Capuchin monk, has a small chapel. It is about 4 m. of level road hence to

*Hospenthal*, on the St. Gothard (Rte. 34) (*Inns*: Meyerhof, a large hotel, carriages, saddle-horses, and guides, excellent; Golden Lion, civil landlord), or ½ m. farther to Andermatt (Rte. 34).

## ROUTE 27.

### PASSES LEADING TO OR FROM THE GRIMSEL.

Besides the mule-paths leading over the Grimsel there are several passes in different directions, suited only to those who are in good condition for walking, and well accustomed to ice.

#### a.—STRAHLECK—GRINDELWALD TO GRIMSEL.

A difficult pass, suited only to skilful mountaineers. In fine weather it is free from danger. It is one of the most grand and striking in the Alps, and is now not uncommonly performed. The time required will depend altogether on the state of the snow, and may vary from 13 to 16 hrs., allowing for a short halt at the summit. It is perhaps most frequently taken from the Grindelwald side, but those who know it well recommend the opposite course; the ascent from the Grimsel is less considerable, and the views are on the whole finer. The hard day's work may be broken by sleeping in the highest châteaux at the foot of the Viescherhörner, 3 easy hrs. from Grindelwald; or at the Pavilion by the Aar Glacier, if the traveller attacks the pass from the Grimsel side.

The path, on leaving Grindelwald,<sup>a</sup> ascends rapidly on the l. hand of the lower glacier, and is practicable for horses for about ¼ hour; it then becomes a footpath overhanging the glacier. After descending a ladder clamped against the face of a cliff (Rte. 25c), the now shrunken glacier is reached and followed; or, if desired, a path on the cliff side may be pursued for some distance. The ascent of the upper part of the glacier is now commenced. Then some very steep rocks have to be climbed. Soon afterwards the glacier is again reached, and all path terminates. From this point the view of the

Schreckhorn, which rises immediately over you on the left, is truly magnificent. Continuing along the glacier (which is here without crevasses, but difficult to walk on, on account of its steep slope from the left), and passing immediately below two lateral glaciers, which almost overhang you, a nearly precipitous wall of snow is reached, forming the end of the valley. At this point you turn to the left, and, ascending the glacier a few hundred feet, reach a shady ridge of rocks rising very steeply, and at right angles to the former route. This is ascended for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., when a platform of snow is reached, across which, after another short but steep ascent, the summit is gained in  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour.

The summit of the Strahleck is, indeed, the perfection of wild scenery. Vegetation there is none, save a few of the smallest gentianellas. The height is about 10,500 English ft., and it lies in the very centre of the highest group of the Oberland Alps, being, in fact, the ridge which connects the Schreckhorn with the range of the Finster Aarhorn.

The descent from the summit towards the Aar Glacier by the well-known ice-wall of the Strahleck forms the principal difficulty of this expedition. In certain states of the snow, nervousness or rashness on the part of any single traveller might endanger the lives of an entire party; but when the proper precautions are taken there is no real risk. Just below the steepest part a wide crevasse or *bergschrand* must be passed, but this is generally pretty well bridged over with snow; the slope soon becomes less steep, and before long the travellers may safely run or slide down to the *névé* of the Finster Aar Glacier (Rte. 26). From the foot of the passage, the Abschwung, where Professor Agassiz's hut was situated, may be reached in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour: thence to the hospice of the Grimsel will take a good walker 3 hours, two of them on the ice.

The demands of the guides at Grindelwald for this pass should not be submitted to. On one occasion they asked 180 fr. and took 30 fr.

This pass has been two or three times crossed by English ladies with the assistance of numerous guides and porters.

#### b.—GADMENTHAL TO GRIMSEL.

Though this is a very beautiful excursion, it has been but seldom traversed, and has not as yet received a name.

It is in no sense a short-cut, as the *détour* by the valley of Hasli may be made in much less time, but in fine weather it is an interesting excursion for practised mountaineers. From Mühlestalden, at the lower end of the valley of Gadmen (Arnold Kehrli, of Mühlethal, is a good guide), a narrow gorge opens to the S., down which flows the stream from the Trift glacier. The glacier is reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. farther a *châlet*, called *Gräggi*, is seen on side of the glacier. A night's rest on clean hay may there be obtained, and it is the point from whence the *Steinhaus-horn* (10,303 ft.), the highest mountain immediately overlooking the valley of Hasli, may most easily be ascended. The view is said to be very fine. From *Gräggi* it is easy to reach Guttanen, by the ridge of the *Furttwang* and the *Steinhaus Alp*, but mountaineers will prefer to traverse the great snow wastes which lie between the ridge of the Steinhaus horn, on the W., and the still higher range of the Sustenhorn and Galenstock, on the E. For nearly an hour from *Gräggi* the glacier presents no difficulty; it then rises steeply in shattered masses, and it is necessary to climb some steep, but not very difficult, rocks. In another hour the upper plateau, a wide-spreading snow-field, is reached. Two hrs. of gradual ascent lead to the summit of the flattened ridge which separates the Trift from the Rhone glacier, about 10,000 Eng. ft. in height. From this point the view of the Galenstock, a pyramid of rock, probably inaccessible on this side, is very fine. The ridge to the L., between the Galenstock and Sustenhorn, overlooks

the wild valley of Göschenen, a tributary of the Reuss. Time permitting, it would be worth a traveller's trouble to gain that ridge. In descending the uppermost part of the Rhone glacier it is advisable to keep to the l., and then cross the glacier diagonally. There are many concealed crevasses. The most direct course to the Grimsel leads over much rough ground by a small lake called "Im Saas;" but it is more easy to make a slight circuit by the Todten See. Time required about 12 hrs. With good guides a traveller might strike to the l. from the upper plateau of the Rhone glacier, along the slopes of the Galenstock, and reach the Furca Inn at night.

C.—OBERAARJOCH—GRIMSEL TO THE  
EGGISCHHORN.

This is one of the most magnificent passes in Switzerland. It is a hard day's work, and the descent of the Viescher glacier is very difficult, but the grandeur of its scenery will well repay any traveller who may explore it in fine weather.

It is advisable to start before daylight from the Grimsel. As far as the foot of the Unteraar glacier the route is the same as that of the Strahleck pass: here it ascends to the chalets at the foot of the Oberaar glacier. This is almost as easily traversed as the lower glacier (27 a), but the ascent to the Col (which presents no difficulty worth mentioning) is rather more rapid. The summit of the pass is reached in about 5½ hrs. The Viesch glacier is very much cut up by wide crevasses throughout nearly its entire length, but the worst part may be avoided by a circuit over the rocks on the rt. bank. After descending for about 2 hrs. from the Joch, the glacier becomes quite impracticable, and it is necessary to scramble down some steep and dripping rocks, which form, in fact, the lower slopes of the Viescherhörner. Beware of descending too low at the foot of the glacier; near the chalets

of Stock, an ascent (of no difficulty) is required to reach the level of the hotel on the Eggischhorn (Rte. 28). This is far preferable to the long and fatiguing descent that is necessary to reach Viesch.

d.—GRIMSEL TO MEYRINGEN, OVER THE  
LAUTERAAR AND GAULI GLACIERS.

"We set out from the hospice of the Grimsel a little after 5 A.M. For some distance the route is the same as that of the Strahleck, but, instead of turning to the l. up the Finsteraar glacier, it inclines to the rt. along the Lauteraar to near its head, where the ridge of the Lauteraarsattel runs across from the Schreckhorn to the mountain marked in Keller's map Berglistock, but called by Anderegg, Schneehorn. Here we turned to our rt. and commenced the ascent of the steep ridge of rock which, running from the last-named mountain, forms the boundary between the Lauteraar and Gauli glaciers. After having reached about half its height, we turned again to our rt. for some distance, parallel to the Lauteraar glacier, till we came to where the passage of the ridge is to be made. The ascent is up rock and loose shingle to the summit, which is very narrow. On the northern side the descent is down an extremely steep slope of hard frozen snow, which occupied nearly 1 h. before we reached the Gauli glacier, down which we slid, and before 2 o'clock were off the ice. The route then is down the Urbach Thal, and in parts is very steep. At Hof we struck in upon the road to Meyringen, and reached that town a little after 6 o'clock, having been 13 hrs., including stoppages, in coming by this pass from the Grimsel; 5½ hrs. were upon the ice."—R. F.

[From the head of the Lauteraar glacier it is possible to reach Rosenlauh, instead of descending to Meyringen. An account of the passage is given in Desor's 'Excursions et

Séjours dans les Alpes.' It appears to be a very difficult expedition, and should be undertaken only in the finest weather, and with experienced guides.]

## ROUTE 28.

### GRIMSEL TO BRIEG, BY OBERGESTELLEN —THE ÆGGISCHHORN.

Grimsel Hospice to	Miles.	Hrs.
Obergestelen. . . .	—	2½
Viesch } Carriage-road.	{ 15½	
Brieg }	{ 11½	

*Diligence* daily from Brieg to Rhone Glacier and Furca. Pass to St. Gotthard.

On reaching the summit of the Grimsel Pass (Rte. 26) this path leads to the rt., whilst the Rhone Glacier and Furca path goes to the l. It is a walk of 2½ hrs. from the Grimsel to Obergestelen direct; but most people make a détour to visit the glacier and source of the Rhone (Rte. 26). Below the glacier, the Rhone plunges through a magnificent gorge before reaching Oberwald.

In all the villages along the road horses and chars may be had.

*Oberwald.* (Inns: H. de la Furca; New Inn, 1867.) The descent of the Upper Valais from Oberwald to Brieg, a distance of 8 hrs. (about 27 m.), is tame and uninteresting for the first part of the way, below which, especially about Viesch, its scenery is singularly beautiful. The peak of the Weisshorn is a noble object as far as Viesch, and, though 40 m. off, seems to block up the valley. Looking up, the Galenstock appears in view with like grandeur. The road runs along the rt. bank of the Rhone. [From Oberwald a path diverges over the col of the Gerenhorn to the Nüfenen.]

1½ m. *Ober-Gestelen* (Fr., Haut Châtillon) (Inn, Cheval Blanc; clean and civil), the highest village but one (Ober-

wald being the highest) in the Upper Valais, 4360 ft. above the sea-level. It is situated on the rt. bank of the Rhone, about 8 m. below its source in the glacier. It is the dépôt for the cheese transported out of canton Berne into Italy, and is a place of some traffic, as it lies at the junction of the 4 bridle-roads over the Grimsel, Furca, Nüfenen, and Gries (Rte. 62).

In 1720, 84 men were killed here by an avalanche, and lie buried in one grave in the churchyard.

1½ m. *Ulrichen*. [Opposite this the valley of Eginen opens out—up it runs the path leading over the Gries and the Nüfenen (Rte. 63).] The Upper Valais (Ober-Wallis) is very populous, and numerous unimportant villages are passed in rapid succession. One of the largest is

2½ m. *Münster*, containing about 400 Inhab., and a good Inn, La Croix d'Or, in full view of the peak of the Weisshorn, a neighbour of Monte Rosa. The landlord's nephew, Antonio Guntren, is a trustworthy guide, well acquainted with the Gries pass. 18 fr. for horse and carriage to Brieg; 20 fr. to Visp. From Münster the ascent of the Löffelhorn (10,268 Eng. ft.) may be made in about 4 hrs. The view of the Finsteraar Horn is said to be singularly fine, but in other respects the position is not equal to that of the Æggischhorn. The natives of the Upper Valais are a distinct and apparently superior race to those of the Lower. The language is German. The Romans never penetrated into the higher part of the Rhone valley.

1½ m. *Rechingen*, a handsome ch.

4 m. *Niederwald* (Inn), fountain of excellent water by roadside.

4 m. *Viesch* (a fair country Inn, H. du Glacier, but charges high) lies at the entrance of a side valley, blocked up at its upper extremity by the Viesch glacier, above which rise the peaks called Viescher-Hörner. There exists a tradition that a path once led up this valley to Grindelwald: it is now entirely stopped by the glacier, and this circumstance is supposed to prove a great increase of the mass of ice.

[*The Äggischhorn*.—Scarcely known to travellers before 1854, this has become one of the head-quarters of lovers of high Alpine scenery. It owes this rapid rise to its admirable position, and to the excellent *Inn*, opened 1856, which affords more of comfort and convenience than are to be obtained elsewhere at an equal height and under similar natural difficulties. The vast snow-fields which cover the southern flanks of the higher Bernese Alps send down two great glaciers towards the valley of the Rhone. The lesser of these, the Viesch glacier, has been already referred to (Rte. 27 c). The greater of them, the *Aletsch glacier*—the most considerable ice-river in the Alps, or perhaps in the world—originates in the vast basin which is enclosed by the peaks of the Aletschhorn, the Jungfrau, the Mönch, the Trugberg, and the Waliser Viescherhörner. Its length, from the Mönch Sattel to the source of the Massa at its base, is fully 20 m., with a breadth varying from 1 to nearly 4 m.; and by its extent and the uniformity of its slope, it far better deserves the name of a *Mer de Glace*, or *Eis Meer*, than any other glacier in the Alps.

From the Mönch Sattel, between the Mönch and the Jungfrau, the main stream of the glacier preserves for 12 or 13 m. a nearly straight course, a little E. of S., until it abuts against a steep pyramidal mountain, which lies exactly in the course of the ice-stream. By this it is deflected to the rt., or S.W.; its slope becomes somewhat more rapid, and its bed narrower, till it finally disappears from sight in a deep ravine, from whence issues the torrent of the Massa. The mountain which thus turns aside the flow of the Aletsch glacier is the *Äggischhorn*. Its summit (9656 Eng. ft.) commands a full view of the entire course of the glacier, and of the grand range of peaks which surround it, in itself an unsurpassed combination of grand natural objects; but besides these the panorama which it presents in clear weather includes nearly or quite all

the highest summits of the Alps. Taken in the order in which they present themselves, we have Mont Blanc, with his attendant aiguilles; the Grand Combin, or Graffeneire; the Weisshorn, Matterhorn, Dom, Monte Rosa, Laquinhorn, Weissmies, Monte Leone; the range extending from thence to the St. Gothard; the distant Tödi, seen beyond the Furka pass; the Galenstock, Oberaarhorn, and Finsteraarhorn, succeeded by the group already enumerated. There is probably no other spot at all easy of access from which all these summits are visible at the same moment. Among other objects of interest the *Viesch glacier*, which is rather an ice-cataract than an ice-river (Rte. 27 c), should not be overlooked. It presents a striking contrast with the tranquil and scarcely ruffled flow of the great Aletsch glacier.

Looking downwards some 2000 ft. below the summit, another remarkable and almost unique object is seen, which, however, requires a nearer visit in order to be fully appreciated. Immediately N. of the Äggischhorn the ridge separating the Aletsch and Viesch glaciers is depressed into a flat plateau, 2 or 3 m. in length, and nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. wide. On one side the Aletsch glacier rises above the level of the plateau in steep cliffs of ice, forming a barrier which prevents the outflow of water on that side. Hence the waters which accumulate in summer, from the drainage of the surrounding mountains, form a small lake called the *Märjelen See*, upon whose ice-cold surface the blocks of ice that fall away from the cliffs float as miniature icebergs. The ice-cliffs rise about 50 ft. above the water, and are grounded in 30 ft. below water. In order to prevent the lake from unduly encroaching upon the adjacent pastures a channel has been dug, by which the surplus waters escape in the opposite direction, and join the torrent from the Viesch glacier. From time to time the onward movement of the Aletsch glacier opens some sub-glacial channel, by which a great part of the waters escape beneath the ice,

leaving a whole fleet of icebergs stranded on the shores of the lake.

*Hotel*, on the S.E. slope of the Äggischhorn (at about 7000 ft.), considering the difficulties to be overcome, must be pronounced excellent. The host, M. Wellig, is extremely obliging and attentive, and has a fair knowledge of cookery, and the charges are reasonable. About 40 beds are made up; and as the house is sometimes quite full, a numerous party should write beforehand to secure rooms: Eng. Ch. service.

There are 4 ways of reaching the Äggischhorn.—*a*, from Viesch, 2 hrs.; *b*, from Lax, 2½ hrs.; *c*, from Mörril, by the Rieder Alp, 5½ hrs.; *d*, from the Bel Alp, 4½ hrs. The first 3 can be made on horseback the whole way, but the easiest is from Viesch. A good horse-track has been constructed as far as the hotel. For nearly an hour the path mounts by zigzags through a pine-forest, whose shade affords protection from the sometimes oppressive heat of the sun. The track is intersected by slides, which serve for the small sledges, in which cheeses, hay, &c., are conveyed from the upper pastures to the village of Viesch. Above the forest the path mounts by gentle slopes over pastures. The views are not very striking, but a little to the l. of the path there is a beautiful view of the grand ranges which circle round Saas and Zermatt, the most conspicuous and beautiful object being the exquisitely-pointed pyramid of the Dom, the highest summit of the Saas Grat (Rte. 122). The path winds round the eastern slopes of the Äggischhorn, and in 2 hrs. from Viesch the traveller reaches the hotel.

Many excursions may be made from the Äggischhorn.

*a*. The first object of attraction is, of course, the view from the summit of the mountain. 1½ hr. easy walk. This should be seen not once only, but several times, in order to enjoy it under different conditions of colouring and illumination. The path to the summit has been greatly

improved by the care of M. Wellig, but the upper part is steep and slippery, and the top, formed of huge shattered blocks, with rifts between, affords but awkward footing. Unpractised mountaineers should take a guide, especially after fresh snow, and not disdain his proffered hand, as slight but disagreeable accidents often occur.

*b*. The next object of attraction is the *Märjelen See*, 2 hrs. easy walk, a mule-path is in progress, already described. A boat is to be put upon its waters. This excursion is generally combined with a visit to the Aletsch glacier, which is easy of access, and in great part free from dangerous crevasses. It is only after walking some miles upon its surface that a true impression can be formed of the vast extent of this sea of ice.

*c*. A rather longer excursion may be made by travellers bound for Brieg, by reaching the Aletsch glacier, either from the Märjelen See, or descending to it from the summit of the mountain (a steep slope, requiring caution); then following the downward slope of the glacier for 3 or 4 m., till opposite to a slight depression in the ridge on its l. bank. This is reached without difficulty, and from thence the descent to Mörril, on the high road from Viesch to Brieg, by grassy slopes, steep, but not difficult, and by occasional rocks, is a very agreeable walk. There is a *châlet* inn on the *Rieder Alp*, where refreshments or beds may be had.

*d*. A much more considerable expedition is to reach the Mönch Sattel, or depression separating the Mönch from the Jungfrau. Ropes, veils, and dark spectacles should be taken, but there is no serious difficulty to be encountered. The distance is considerable, and the walk to and fro, especially if there be much fresh snow, is a fatiguing one. The contrast afforded by the view from the summit of the Col, looking over the Bernese Oberland and the plain of Switzerland, after having been so long confined to



the Polar scenery of the upper part of the glacier, is said to be very striking. It appears that there is no possibility of descending the precipices which on the farther side face the Wengern Alp, but 2 different passages in this direction, from the Aletsch glacier to the Bernese Oberland, have been accomplished by English travellers. The first of these was effected in August, 1858, by the Rev. C. Hudson, Mr. Birkbeck, and Mr. Joad, with 2 excellent guides, Melchior Anderegg and Victor Tairraz, of Chamouni. They ascended the Aletsch glacier nearly to the base of the Mönch, and, following the branch which separates the Mönch from the Trugberg, passed the night on the snow, under a tent, at a height of about 11,500 ft. above the sea. From this point they soon reached on the following morning the summit of the ridge connecting the Mönch with the range called the Viescher Grat. From thence the descent to the lower glacier of Grindelwald is a work of considerable difficulty and some danger. The difficulties would probably be less serious if the pass were made from the Grindelwald side, but it cannot be recommended to ordinary travellers. The second, and still more difficult passage, was accomplished in 1859, by the Rev. Lealie Stephen and Mr. Mathews, with Ulrich Lauener and 2 Chamouni guides. They ascended from the Wengern Alp, between the Eiger and the Mönch, and reached the summit of the ridge connecting those peaks, after 580 steps had been cut in one ice-slope by the first-named guide. They were forced to pass the night on the upper Aletsch glacier, and reached the hotel on the *Æggischhorn* the next day.

The *Æggischhorn* has been the starting-point from whence the 3 highest summits of the Oberland group have been attained. The *Finsteraarhorn* (14,039 Eng. ft.) was first ascended in 1841, by Herr Solger, of Basle, with a guide named Jaun, of Meyringen. The next successful ascent, of which an account is given in 'Peaks, Passes, and

Glaciers,' was effected in 1857, by the Rev. J. F. Hardy, Messrs. Kennedy, Ellis, St. John Mathews, and W. Mathews, all of the University of Cambridge, with 5 guides. Several successful ascents have been since made. The Aletschhorn was for the first time ascended by Mr. F. F. Tuckett, with (3?) guides, in 1859. Only of late it has been known that this peak, which is not visible from the Bernese Oberland, being wholly situated in the Valais, is the 2nd in height of the Alps of Central Switzerland (13,803 Eng. ft.). The history of the successful attempts to reach the summit of the Jungfrau has been already referred to (Rte. 25 c).

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[Travellers who have already seen the Pass of the Simplon may reach Domo d'Ossola by the Binnen Thal and Crodo, in the Val Antigorio (Rte. 61). Those proceeding to Sion, or the Baths of Leuk, may take a route over the Aletsch and Lötsch glaciers, a day's journey over ice and snow, but not presenting any serious difficulty (Rte. 60).

Ordinary travellers will prefer to return to the high road at Viesch.] And thence proceed to

1½ m. *Laax* (Croix Blanche, good).

5 m. *Möriß* (Inn: H. *Æggischhorn*).

The stream of the Massa, issuing from the Aletsch Glacier, here joins the Rhone. The volume of its waters is greater than that of any other glacier stream in the Alps.

[*Bel Alp*. A good and very popular Inn has been built on the Bel Alp (formerly called the Lusgen Alp), one of the S. spurs of the Aletschhorn, and but a short distance above the Aletsch Glacier. There is a pleasant walk to it, often traversed by ladies in 4½ hrs. (of which ½ hr. is across the Aletsch Glacier), from the *Æggischhorn* Hotel. It passes by the *Châlet Inn* on the Rieder Alp. The Bel Alp is also reached in 3½ or 4 hrs. from Brieg by a bridle-path ascending from Naters, as bad as it can be except the last ½ hr. But the views are exquisite; the Matterhorn, Dom, and Weisshorn



all well seen from the *Inn*, which is good and moderate. Excursion from the Bel Alp to the Sparrehorn (otherwise the Belhorn), 3 hrs. up: horses go two-thirds of the way. View magnificent, like that from the *Æggischhorn*.]

4 m. *Naters*, a village of 600 Inhab., lies in a beautiful situation and in a milder climate, where the chestnut begins to flourish. Above it rises the ruined castle of Auf der Flüh, or Supersax.

A wooden bridge leads across the Rhone to the great high road at

1 m. *Brieg* (*Inn*: H. d'Angleterre, Post), at the foot of the Simplon (Rte. 59).

## ROUTE 31.

STANZ TO ENGELBERG. ENGELBERG TO ALTORF, BY THE SURENEN PASS. THE TITLIS.

From Stanzstad—		Miles.	Hrs.	Min.
Stanz	} car-road	3	—	20
Engelberg		15	4½	
Surenen	} footpath		8	
Altorf				

A walk of 12½ to 13 hrs. The best plan is to sleep at Engelberg and cross the pass next day.

*Steamers* 4 times daily from Lucerne to Stanzstad—the port of Stanz—to which place runs a diligence.

There is a good char-road from Stanz (Rte. 19) to Engelberg (4½ hours' walk; car, 1 horse, 12 fr.; ditto 2, 20 fr.); thence to Altorf, across the pass, a horse-path. Take a guide.

The road from *Stanz* to Engelberg follows the course of the Aa upwards, gradually ascending, and passing Wolfenschiess with its ruined castle, and

Grafenort, where there is a small inn. Beyond this the valley contracts, and the rest of the way to Engelberg is best travelled on foot. The road is carried up a steep ascent nearly 6 m. long, traversing thick woods, amidst scenery of the highest sublimity. In the midst of it, in the

depth of the valley, lie the village and *Abbey of*

*Engelberg*—(*Inns*: Hotel and Pension Müller, good, clean, and moderate, whey cure; Engel, Titlis)—3220 ft. above the sea. It is hemmed in on all sides by lofty mountains topped with snow, and based by precipices from which, in winter time and in spring, numerous avalanches are precipitated. At their base, upon a verdant slope, contrasting agreeably with rock and snow, the Benedictine Abbey rises conspicuous among the ordinary habitations of the village. It was founded in 1120, and received from Pope Calixtus II. the name of *Mons Angelorum*, from a tradition that the site of the building was fixed by angels—

“ Whose authentic lay,  
Sung from that heavenly ground, in middle air,  
Made known the spot where Piety should raise  
A holy structure to th' Almighty's praise.”  
*Wordsworth.*

Having been three times destroyed by fire, the existing edifice is not older than 1729. “The architecture is plain and unimpressive, but the situation is worthy of the honours which the imagination of the mountaineers has conferred upon it.” The convent is independent of any bishop or sovereign but the Pope himself, or his legate: its revenues, once more considerable, were seriously diminished by the French, but it still possesses valuable alpine pastures, and the cheeses produced on them are stored in an adjacent warehouse and cellars. It contains, at present, only 19 brothers: in its large *Church* are numerous paintings by Deschwanden and other artists of the modern Swiss school. The Library is of some value, rich in Swiss early printed books and illuminated MSS.; the roof of the apartment in which it is placed has been cracked by an earthquake. Travellers are received and entertained in the convent—those of the poorer classes gratuitously.

The *Titlis*, the chief of the mountains which overhang this romantic solitude, rises on the S. of the convent to a height of 7000 ft. above

the valley, and 10,690 ft. above the sea-level. Its principal peak is frequently ascended, but more easily from the inn in the Engstlen-Thal (Rte. 33) than from Engelberg. The first hour from Engelberg can be accomplished on horses, after which there is a sharp ascent for an hour through woods; the path then continues over pastures which gradually become rocks mixed with patches of snow, and the last hour is over a snowy ridge. The ascent occupies 6 or 7 hours. It is covered with a cap of snow or névé, from which numerous avalanches fall in spring.

The view is superb. The Sustenhorn, Galenstock, Thierberge, Finsteraarhorn, Schreckhörner, and all the mountains of the Oberland are seen to perfection. The position of the mountain is so favourable that the eye wanders over an almost countless number of peaks and glaciers.

The *Passes of the Storegg* and of the *Jauchli* (Rte. 19) lead by the Melchthal to Surenen in 5 and 6 hrs. respectively.

The *Pass of the Joch* (see Rte. 33) leads from Engelberg to Meyringen in 10 hrs.

Engelberg to	Hours.
Summit of Surenen . . . .	4
Attinghausen . . . . .	3½
Altorf . . . . .	½

From Engelberg to Altorf, by the Pass of the *Surenen*, is a walk of 8 hrs. When there is fresh snow on the pass 9 or 10 hrs. should be allowed. When ladies are of the party it is better taken from Engelberg than from Altorf, as it is difficult to hire good mountain horses at the latter place. The footpath reaches, after about 3m., the dairy belonging to the convent, called *Herrenreuti*, where good cheese is made: 50 cows are attached to it; the pastures are refreshed by more than 20 springs rising upon them. From the steep sides of the *Hahnenberg*, on the N.E., a beautiful waterfall bursts forth, called *Dätschbach*. The path now winds round the base of a projecting mountain, beyond which the valley makes a bend in a N.E. direc-

tion, and, following the course of the *Aa* torrent for about 6 m., crosses it, and then turns nearly due E. The *Stierenbach*, the principal feeder of the *Aa*, is now seen descending in a pretty cascade into the deep abyss. Half an hour's walk below the summit stand a few *châlets*, and beyond them the traveller has generally to traverse patches of snow, to the summit of the pass, or *Surenen Eck*, a narrow ridge 7548 ft. above the sea, not more than 5 ft. wide, between the *Blakenstock* on the l. and the *Geissberg* on the rt. During the greater part of the ascent the *Titlis* shines forth an object of the greatest magnificence, and a long line of peaks and glaciers extends from it uninterruptedly to the *Surenen*. Another view now opens out on the opposite side into the valley of *Schächen*, bounded in the extreme distance by the snowy top of the *Glärnisch* in canton *Glarus*. On the side of the *Surenen*, lying within the limits of canton *Uri*, the surface of snow to be crossed is often greater, and the descent is steeper. Traversing the snow, and a desolate tract covered with broken rocks beyond, the *châlets* of *Waldnacht* are passed; and then, by the gorge of *Boghy*, the path is conducted into the valley of the *Reuss*, forking off on the rt. to *Erstfeld*, for those who wish to ascend the *St. Gothard*—and on the l., crossing the *Reuss*, to *Attinghausen*, for those who are bound to *Altorf*.

In 1799 a division of the French army, under *Lecourbe*, crossed this pass with cannon to attack the *Austrians* in the valley of the *Reuss*, but were soon driven back the same way by the impetuous descent of *Suwarow* from the *St. Gothard*.

*Altorf* (Rte. 34).

## ROUTE 32.

PASS OF THE SUSTEN, FROM MEYRINGEN OR REICHENBACH TO WASEN.

12½ hrs. 11 hrs.' fast walking.  
In 1811, when the *Valais* was

added by Napoleon to the French empire, a char-road was constructed from Meyringen to Stein, and on the side of canton Uri from Wasen to Ferningen, to enable the inhabitants of canton Berne to convey their produce into Italy through the Swiss territory. It has fallen out of repair in many places, and can only be regarded as a bridle-path. It is a fine pass; the Gadmenthal being very grand, in parts somewhat like the Trosachs, on a grander scale. Charge for a horse 30 fr., for a guide 10 fr.; but, as the pass is much frequented, no guide is required in clear weather. It enables a stout pedestrian to proceed in one long day from Meyringen to Wasen, on the St. Gothard, but the distance is almost too much, and it is usual to stop for the night at Stein. The word Sust means toll or custom-house, whence the name.

The route of the Grimsel is followed from Meyringen as far as Im Hof (Rte. 26), where, quitting the side of the Aar, the path follows the course of the Gadmen, ascending the valley called, at its lower extremity, Muhli-thal, and higher up Nessel-thal. Here the narrow Trift-thal opens from the S., with fine glimpses of the Triftenstock and gletscher, up which lies a glacier pass to the Grimsel (Rte. 27 b). Beyond this the valley is named Gadmenthal.

The road passes through a fine grove of venerable sycamores, above which the Titlis rises superbly, before you reach in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

*Gadmen.* (*Inn*: Bear, shaded by sycamores, clean and tolerable.) This village of 550 Inhab. is 3750 ft. above the sea-level, and is composed of 3 distinct groups of houses, Eck, Ambuhl, and Obermatt,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile higher up. The char-road was not carried further than the châteaux of Steinen, and a portion of it was destroyed a few years ago by the sudden advance of the glacier of Steinen, which 30 years ago was more than a mile distant from it, descending from a valley on the S. The appearance of the glacier is remarkable, as it assumes a fan shape at its termination. At the

foot of the Steinen glacier is a clean little *Inn*. 7 hrs. are required from Meyringen to Stein,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  descending to Meyringen. From hence the ascent of the Sustenhorn may be effected in 6 hrs. The height is 11,560 Eng. ft. From the inn at Stein a steep ascent of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour brings the traveller to

The top of the Susten Pass, 7446 ft. above the level of the Mediterranean. The view is very fine; the serrated ridges, and the many pointed peaks of the mountains bounding the Mayenthal, through which the descent lies, especially arrest the attention. There is always some snow on the E. declivity of the pass. The first châteaux are met with on the Hundsalp. The stream of the Mayen-Reuss, issuing out of the Susten glacier (rt.), under the Susten Horn, is crossed several times, until at the Hauserbrücke, a considerable distance below Fernigen, the unfinished char-road again commences. Near Fernigen the deeply engulfed and foaming Gurezmittlerbach is crossed. Lower down is the village of Mayen, or Meyen, 3 hrs. descending from the top of the pass, where there is an *Inn*, not so good as those at Gadmen or Stein. Most of the houses in this valley are protected from the descending avalanches by a stone dyke, or well-propped palisade of wood raised on the hill-side behind them, to turn away the falling snow from their roofs. Near the junction of the valleys of the Mayen and the Reuss are shattered remains of an hexagonal redoubt (*schanze*), which was fortified by the Austrians in 1799, and stormed and taken from them by the French under Loison, who forced the enemy back up the vale of the Reuss, and, after five assaults, made himself master of Wasen, an important point. A very steep and rough road leads in one hour from Mayen into the village of

Wasen, on the St. Gothard (Rte. 34). Hours' fast walking from Wasen: 5 to the Pass;  $\frac{1}{4}$  to Stein; 2 to Gadmen; 2 to Im Hof; 1 to Meyringen = total,  $10\frac{1}{4}$  hours.

## ROUTE 33.

THE JOCH PASS, FROM MEYRINGEN  
TO ENGELBERG.

Distance about 10 hrs. This pass, though practicable for horses, and a good deal used, is high and steep. It is a fine pass, with considerable variety of scenery, commanding beautiful views of the Titlis. As far as Im Hof it is the same as Rte. 26.

That village is reached in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Meyringen. The road of the Susten is followed for nearly an hour to the junction of the torrent from the Gentel Thal with the Gadmenbach. A rapid ascent follows, till the pastures at the lower extremity of the Gentel Thal are reached, in which is a pure spring, very grateful after the hot ascent from Wyler. From this point the path continues on the rt. bank of the stream on a very gradual rise for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour, and then crossing reaches the lower pastures of the *Engstlen Alp*. Another ascent of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. by a rough path, partly through pine forest, leads to *Engstein Alp Inn* (about 6100 ft.), capital country inn; civil and intelligent landlord, often overflowing with guests. The position is a very fine one, and the views of the adjoining range of the Titlis, and of the Oberland Alps, magnificent. Many excursions may be made from hence, but the most interesting is the ascent of the Titlis. (See Rte. 31.) From this convenient starting-point it is not very fatiguing, and has been accomplished by English ladies. A practised mountaineer will easily reach the summit in 5 hrs. and return in  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , but it is well to allow ample time to enjoy the view from the top. The landlord will find good and cheap guides. Near to the Inn is a remarkable intermittent *Spring*, called *Wunderbrunnen*. It flows from spring to autumn, always running

from 8 A.M. to about 4 P.M., when it ceases.

[An easy and beautiful pass called the *Sättli* (Little Saddle) leads hence in 4 hrs. to Gadmen ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. extra should be allowed by those coming from Gadmen). The path skirts the rocks at the extremity of the Engstlen See, and thence ascends gradually to the summit ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.); the view hence over the Thierberge, Triftenhorn, Sustenhorn, and the glaciers is very fine. On the Gadmen side the descent is so steep, that mules would be unable to pass, but they could go the whole of the reverse way, i.e. from Gadmen to the Engstlen Alp. The downward path takes a direction to the l. and leads to a shepherd's hut ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.). Here 2 roads diverge, one to the l. leads to Obermatt and Stein (Rte. 32), the other, to the rt., to Gadmen and Im Hof. The remainder of the descent is rather less steep and is very picturesque, passing through fir-woods and over open fields commanding beautiful views of the valley, &c.]

There are two paths down to Engelberg,—the horse-path, scarcely marked, leading to the l. of the Trüb See; the other and shorter one, only practicable on foot, continuing along a ridge in the direction of Engelberg for a short distance, and then descending abruptly on the rt. to a plain, on which, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on the left, is situated the Trüb See, fed by glaciers descending from the Ochsenberg on the rt. It is necessary to bear away to the rt.-hand extremity of this plain, where there is a gap, from which a very rough and precipitous path, called the *Pfaffenwand*, descends for 20 minutes over grass, and afterwards *débris*, to the pastures, crossing which it enters the forest for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, and shortly reaches

Engelberg (Rte. 31).

## ROUTE 34.

THE PASS OF ST. GOTHARD, FROM FLÜELEN, ON THE LAKE OF LUCERNE, TO BELLINZONA.

8½ posts = 76 miles.

	Swiss posts.	Eng. m.
Flüelen to Amsteg . . .	1½	10
Amsteg to Andermatt . .	1½	14½
Andermatt to St. Gothard		
Pass . . . . .	1½	11
St. Gothard Pass to Airolo	½	8
Airolo to Faido . . . .	1½	10
Faido to Bodio . . . .	1	9
Bodio to Bellinzona . .	1½	13½
	8½	76

These are the true distances: somewhat more is charged by the postmasters.

Steamers 4 or 5 times a day from Lucerne, reaching Flüelen, and thence diligences (places in which must be secured in Lucerne or on board the steamer) start 2 or 3 times a day for Bellinzona in 15 hrs., Milan in 25. By the diligence some of the finest portions of the route are passed in the dark. From the coupé, which contains 3 places, something of the scenery may be seen; from the corner places in the interior, a very little; from the middle places, nothing whatever. A single traveller may sometimes induce the *conducteur* to give him his place outside. The road is very dusty, so that this is not an unmixed advantage. There is no *banquette*.

The innkeepers on both sides of the pass undertake to forward travellers in post carriages, and with posthorses, for a fixed charge. From Flüelen

or Altorf the price of a carriage and 2 post-horses to Hospenthal is 30 fr., to Airolo 60, to Faido 75, to Bellinzona 100, to Magadino 115, to Lugano 125, and to Como 150 fr., not including the pour-boire of 2 fr. to the postilion at each stage, or the extra horses for crossing the mountain. These extras will amount to about 25 fr. more for the entire journey. It will save trouble to fix the entire amount before starting, and obtain a written agreement from the inkeeper to be shown at each stage. The service is well appointed. *Lohnkutschers* or *vetturini* abound at Flüelen, and some of them are generally on board the steamers looking out for custom. They perform the whole journey to Como for about 250 fr., including all charges, in 3 days, reaching Como on the 3rd, in time for the last rly. train for Milan. It is well to have this last point secured in a written agreement, which should also stipulate that the driver is to stop at the inns which the traveller may select. These carriages are more comfortable than those furnished by the postmasters, and will accommodate 6 persons.

Pedestrians should drive as far as Amsteg, where the ascent properly begins.

On this pass many rare minerals are found, and may be purchased better than in any other part of Switzerland.

This was anciently perhaps the most frequented passage over the Alps, as it offered the most direct and practicable line of communication between Basle and Zürich, from Northern Switzerland and W. Germany, to Lombardy, and the important cities of Milan and Genoa. Not less than 16,000 travellers and 9000 horses crossed it annually on an average, down to the commencement of the present century; but being only a bridle-path, it was almost entirely abandoned after the construction of the carriage-roads over the Simplon and Bernardin. The cantons of Uri and Tessin, through which this

road runs, at length became sufficiently alive to their own interests to perceive the necessity of converting it into a carriage-road. In consequence, in 1820 the work was begun, and in 1832 finally completed and opened. The expenses were defrayed by a joint-stock company, formed in Uri and the neighbouring cantons. The construction of the road was intrusted to an engineer of Altorf, named Müller.

At present the road is excellent, not inferior in its construction to any other of the great Alpine highways. In grandeur of scenery, especially on the Swiss side, it may vie with any Swiss pass. Its points of chief interest are the Gorge of the Schellinen, Devil's Bridge, and the Italian scenery of rugged mountain and rich valleys.

The passage is usually free from snow for 4 or 5 months of the year; and in the depth of winter carriages are safely transported across on open sledges, except immediately after a snow-storm, when the road is sometimes blocked up for a week. In 1860, 41,000 fr. were spent in keeping the road clear of snow. It is still one of the best routes for Italy.

The canton of Uri and the valley of the Reuss possess an historical celebrity, as the theatre of the memorable campaign of 1799, when the armies of the three nations of France, Austria, and Russia, dispossessing each other in turns, marched, fought, and manœuvred, on heights whence the snow never disappears, and previously deemed accessible only to goat-herds and hunters. In the month of June, in the above-named year, the Austrians, aided by the natives of Uri, had expelled the French from the valley. Satisfied with the possession of it, they passed nearly 2 months in entire inactivity, when, by a combined movement, planned by Massena, they were attacked at all points by French corps, poured in upon them from the lake of Lucerne, which was crossed by a flotilla of boats, and from every western passage leading over the Alps and into the valley of the Reuss. Lecourbe crossed

the Surenen, Loison the Susten, and Gudin, with a large force, fought his way over the Grimsel and Furca, threatening the Austrians in front, in flank, and in the rear. In an engagement which took place on the 14th of August, and which lasted 5 hours, they were driven step by step up the valley, as far as Andermatt. On the two following days the French pursued them out of the valley of the Reuss into the Grisons by the Oberalp, where a bloody encounter took place. A little more than a month after this, intelligence was brought to Lecourbe, the French commander, that another large army had appeared at the S. foot of the St. Gothard. While still at a loss to imagine to what European power it might belong, fresh tidings announced that it was the veteran Suwarrow, who, at the head of a Russian army of 18,000 foot and 5000 Cossack horse, had broken up from his encampment in the plains of Lombardy, and now began to force the passage of the St. Gothard. The French retired slowly but steadily before him as far as the lake of Lucerne, where Lecourbe, after removing all the boats from Flüelen, entrenched himself in a strong position at Seedorf, on the l. bank of the Reuss. Suwarrow, whose object was to unite himself with the Russian army before Zürich, of the defeat of which by Massena he had not yet heard, here found himself without the means of transporting his army, threatened on all sides by enemies. He took little time to consider, but immediately planned and executed his wonderful and almost incredible retreat over the Kinzig Kulm and into the valley of Muotta; and though constantly annoyed by the French in his rear, finally conducted his army into the valley of the Rhine, with a loss of 3000 men, of whom far more perished from cold, fatigue, and hunger, than from the enemies' bullets. (See Rtes. 73, 75.)

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*Flüelen*—(Italian *Fiora*—*Inns*: Adler, Croix Blanche, both opposite the



steamboat pier)—the port of canton Uri, at the S. extremity of the lake of the Four Cantons, is a small village in a not very healthy situation. The malaria from the marshy ground produced by the deposits of the Reuss at its entrance into the lake has been abated by means of works undertaken on a large scale to deepen the mouth of the Reuss, and thus drain the upper country. *Conveyances* and *Post-horses* may always be had here.

The *Steamer* touches here five times a day from Lucerne, and returns after a short stay; it takes carriages. (See Rte. 18.) A pier, alongside of which the steamers are moored, offers a convenient landing-place. About 2 m. off lies

1½ m. *Altorf*—*Inns*: Adler, good; Schlüssel (Clef d'Or), civil people; Bär; Löwe; Krone; Aigle, good. This is the capital of the canton Uri, the poorest and least populous in the Confederation, numbering altogether only 13,500 souls: it is a dull, lifeless village of 2426 Inhab., without trade or manufactures, and still exhibiting signs of the conflagration of 1799, which reduced the larger part of it to ashes. It was the early home of the great Guelph family, and, if credit is to be given to tradition, it was on the open square in the centre of Altorf that William Tell shot the apple from off his son's head. The place where he stood to take aim is marked by a *plaster statue of Tell* (!), a gift of the riflemen of Zurich. The lime-tree, upon which Gessler's cap was stuck, for all men to do obeisance to it as they passed, and to which the child was bound, to serve as a mark for his father's bolt, existed a withered trunk, down to 1567, when it was cut down and replaced by a fountain.

The tall *Tower*, ornamented with rude frescoes, representing Tell and Gessler, has been stated erroneously by some writers to occupy the site of the lime-tree; but it is proved by records still in existence to have been built before the time of Tell.

On quitting Altorf the road crosses the mouth of the vale of Schächen,

traversing, by a bridge, the stream in which, according to tradition, William Tell lost his life (1350) in endeavouring to rescue a child from the waterfall of Bürglen. He plunged in, and neither he nor the child was seen after. Tell was a native of the Schächenthal, having been born in the village of Bürglen (*Inn* and *Pension*, William Tell, much resorted to, in a delightful site), a little to the l. of our road. The small *Chapel*, backed by an ivy-clad tower, rudely painted with the events of his life, was built in 1522 on the spot where his house stood, near the churchyard. The inhabitants of this valley are considered the finest race of men in Switzerland. A path runs up it, and across the Klausen Pass (Rte. 76) to the baths of Stachelberg, in canton Glarus, and another over the Kinzig Kulm (Rte. 75), into the Muotta Thal.

On the l. bank of the Reuss, opposite its junction with the Schächen, stands Attinghausen, the birthplace of *Walter Fürst*, one of the three liberators of Switzerland: his house is still pointed out. Above it rise the ruins of a castle, whose baronial owners became extinct in 1357, when the last of the race was buried in his helmet and hauberk. At

*Bötzingen*, 3 m. above Altorf, the parliament (*Landesgemeinde*) of canton Uri is held on the first Sunday in May, to settle the affairs of the state. Every male citizen above the age of 20, except a priest, has a vote. The authorities of the canton, on horseback, with the *Landammann* at their head, preceded by a detachment of militia, with military music, and the standard of the canton attended by the beadies in their costume of yellow and black, and by two men in the ancient Swiss garb of the same colour, bearing aloft the two bull's horns of Uri, march to the spot in procession. From a semi-circular hustings, erected for the purpose, the business of the day is proclaimed to the assembled crowd, and the different speakers deliver their harangues, after which the question is put to the vote by show of hands.



When all affairs of state are despatched, the Landammann and other public officers resign, and are either re-elected or others are chosen in their place. It is possible that alterations have been made in these things, under the great political changes which have recently taken place in Switzerland.

After leaving Altorf the road passes through pretty meadows shaded with fine walnut-trees as far as Amsteg. It rises the rocky wall of the Windgelle, a continuation of the Klariden-Grat, and Scheerhorn. A flat surface on the precipice returns a very distinct echo. A little way from Klus, a village half-way to Amsteg, the wild defile of the Surenen opens rt. (Rte. 31). At Klus the road approaches the margin of the Reuss, and beyond, at the hamlet of Silinen, it is partly cut through the rock, passes under the ruins of a tower, by some supposed to be the castle of *Zwing Uri* (Restraint of Uri), the construction of which by the tyrant Gessler, to overawe the peasants, roused the suspicion and indignation of the Swiss; so that it was demolished by them in 1308, on the first outbreak of the revolt against Austria.

8½ m. *Amsteg* (*Inns*: \*Croix Blanche; Hirsch, good country inn; Stern), delightfully situated, and although not a post station, it is a convenient place for those to stop at who cross the lake by the afternoon steamer from Lucerne. It stands at the mouth of the *Maderaner* or *Kerstelen Thal*, which stretches E. as far as the base of the Clariden Grat, a valley little visited, but well worth exploring; abounding in waterfalls and glaciers, and magnificent pine forests. [A track leads to Disentis over the Kreuzli Pass (see Rte. 83), and an ice-path over the Clariden Grat to Stachelberg; 3½ hrs. to chalets of Waldibalm in the Maderaner Thal, 3½ hrs. up a faint track high above l. of Hüfi Glacier, to where the ice is taken, 3½ h. to the Grat; 8 hours, including stoppages, by a circuitous route (which might be shortened by crossing the Grat under the Catscharran and descending by the Sand

Firn), to Sand Alp chalets. After this, 3 hrs. to Stachelberg. Guides, Ch. Aylmer, P. Peru, and M. Andermatten.—*Alp. Journ.*, iii. 134. N.B. An inn is opened in the Maderaner Thal, near the foot of the Hüfi Glacier.]

At the bridge of Amsteg the road first crosses the Reuss and now begins to ascend, having on the l. hand the river below, in a deep channel, dashing from rock to rock in an almost uninterrupted cataract, and above the huge mass of the *Bristenstock*, rising in tiers of almost perpendicular precipices.

*Intschi*. A second bridge carries it back to the rt. bank; and, after traversing a wood, a third, called *Pfaffensprung* (priest's leap), from a fable of a monk having leaped across it with a maiden in his arms, brings the traveller to the torrent Mayenbach, descending from the Susten Pass (Rte. 32), which joins the Reuss immediately below.

8 m. *Wasen* (*Inns*: H. des Alpes; Ochs, fair), a village of 550 Inhab., on the l. bank of the Reuss, at the mouth of the Mayenthal. Winding from side to side, the road slowly toils upward to

4 m. *Göschenen*, where a narrow valley opens to the W., through which the torrent of the *Göschenen Reuss* descends from the glaciers of the Galenstock. Here the main valley assumes a more savage character, contracting into the narrow ravine of Schöllinen, bounded for nearly 3 m. by impending cliffs of granite. One vast fragment, skirted by the road, was dropped here, according to the popular legend, by the devil, and is thence called *Teufelstein*. This defile is a scene of desolation and awful grandeur; the walls of rock seem almost to exclude the light of day, scarce a blade of grass is to be seen, and nothing heard but the wild dashing of the Reuss at the foot of the precipice below the road, from which hoarse sounds this part of the valley gets the name of *Krachenthal*. The road hereabouts is much exposed in spring

to danger from avalanches. Here and there niches are cut in the rock to shelter passers, and a part of the road is roofed by a stone *gallery*. The remains of the former road are seen on the opposite side of the valley. The difficulties of the ascent are next overcome by the skill of the engineer, who has constructed a series of complicated zigzag terraces, first on one side of the Reuss and then on the other, by means of which, and of numerous bridges, the traveller at length reaches

The *Devil's Bridge*, situated in the midst of the most stern but magnificent scenery of the whole pass. The Reuss leaps down into the head of this savage gorge in a lofty cataract, and in the very midst of its din and spray. Very precipitous rocks of granite, remarkable for the stern nakedness of their surface, hem in the bed of the river on both sides; those on the left bank leaving not an inch of space for the sole of a foot at their base, except what has been hewn out of it by human art. For ages this must have been a complete cul-de-sac, until, by human ingenuity, the torrent was bridged and the rock bored through. The old bridge, a thin segment of a circle, spanning a terrific abyss, had originally an air at once of boldness and fragility, much of which it has lost by the contrast with the towering and more solid structure that has now entirely superseded it, and seems, as it were, to domineer over it. The single arch of slight masonry, suspended in the air at a height of 70 ft. above the Reuss, with scarce a parapet at the side, and with barely breadth to allow two persons to pass, almost seemed to tremble with the rushing of the torrent under the feet of the traveller. Modern improvements have deprived the bridge and its vicinity of much of its terror and sublimity. A commodious and gradually sloping terrace, hewn out of the solid rock at the foot of the precipice, leads to the broad and massive new bridge, which, though nearer to the fall than the old, may be passed without the slightest emotion of the nerves, thanks to its solidity

and high parapets. It is of granite; the arch 25 ft. span: it was finished 1830. The construction of this part of the road presented great difficulties to the engineer from the hardness and smoothness of the precipitous rocks and the want of easy access to them: indeed, the mines necessary for blasting the granite could only be formed by workmen suspended by ropes from above, and dangling in the air like spiders at the end of their threads. The ancient bridge was first founded by Abbot Gerald, of Einsiedeln, in 1118, so that, in the naming of it, the devil has received more than his due: it has been allowed to remain beneath the new bridge, though no longer of any use. During the extraordinary campaign of 1799, the Devil's Bridge and the defile of the Schellinen were twice obstinately contested within the space of little more than a month. On the 14th of August the united French column, under Lecourbe and Loison, having surprised the Austrians, drove them up the valley of the Reuss, as far as this bridge, which, having been converted into an entrenched position, was defended by them for some time. The ancient Devil's Bridge was approached from the lower part of the valley by a terrace abutting against the precipice, interrupted in one place by a chasm. The road was continued over this upon an arch of masonry which supported a sort of causeway. At last even this was carried by the French, who, in their impetuous pursuit, followed their enemies across this arch. In a moment, while a crowd of combatants were upon it, it was blown into the air, and hundreds were precipitated into the abyss below. During the night the Austrians, alarmed by the appearance of another French force in their rear, evacuated altogether the valley of the Reuss. On the 24th of the following September the tide of war took an opposite turn. Suwarrow, pouring down from the summit of the St. Gothard, at the head of 5000 horse and 18,000 foot, compelled the French, in their turn, to retire before him. The progress of the Russians was ar-

rested here for a short time, as they found the road broken up, the Urnerloch filled with rocks, and the passage down the valley interrupted by the gap in the causeway beyond the bridge, caused by the blowing up of the arch. A murderous fire from the French swept away all who approached the edge of the chasm; but the Russian columns, eager for advance, by their pressure pushed the foremost ranks into the foaming Reuss. The impediments in the road were soon removed; an extemporaneous arch was constructed by binding together beams of wood with officers' scarfs; and over this the Russian army passed, pursuing the enemy as far as Altdorf. This is the picturesque version of these actions in some modern histories; the truth, however, seems to be that the bridge (as its venerable appearance testifies) was not blown up, but that one of the arches leading to it was destroyed; and the Austrians took up so strong a position, that the French were unable to force the pass, and waited 2 day or two till they had sent troops over the mountains, threatening the flanks and rear of the Austrians, who then retreated. Nearly the same thing took place when the Russians advanced; in fact, these passes were never forced if tolerably defended, but the attacking party were always obliged to avail themselves of their superior numbers and turn the passes, coming down upon the flanks and rear of the enemy (see Rte. 26). For correct accounts of the extraordinary actions among these mountains, only Jomini, the military historian, can be relied on.

Immediately above, after passing the Devil's Bridge, the road is carried through a tunnel, bored for 180 feet through the solid rock, called

2½ m. *Urnerloch*, or *Hole of Uri*. It is 180 ft. long, 15 ft. high, and 16 ft. broad. Previous to its construction, in 1707, the only mode of passing the buttress of rock which here projects into the river, so as to deny all passage, was by a bridge, or shelf of boards, suspended on the outside by chains from above.

By means of this the traveller doubled, as it were, the shoulder of the mountain, enveloped in the spray of the torrent, within a few feet of which the frail structure was hung. The Gallery of Uri was originally constructed by a Swiss engineer named Moretini; but was only passable for mules, until, in reconstructing the St. Gothard road, it was enlarged to admit carriages.

Out of this gallery the traveller emerges into the wide basin-shaped pastoral valley of Urseren, which, in contrast with the savage gorge of Schellinen, and from the suddenness of the transition, has obtained from most travellers the praise of beauty and fertility. Taken by itself, however, it has little but its verdure to recommend it: owing to its great height, 4356 ft. above the sea, scarcely any trees grow in it, and the inhabitants supply themselves with corn for bread from more fortunate lands. The lower part of it was probably once a lake, until a passage was opened for the Reuss through the rocks of Schellinen. It was originally colonised, it is supposed, by the Rhetians. The usual entrance to it was by the pass of the Oberalp. Its inhabitants spoke the language of the Grisons, and the valley was a dependence of the abbot of Disentis. Down to the 14th century it remained closed up at its lower extremity, and had no direct communication with the lower valley of the Reuss. About that time, however, a path seems to have been opened; and the men of Urseren, allying themselves with those of Uri, threw off the yoke of their former feudal lords. A mile from the gallery of Uri lies

1 m. *Andermatt*, or *Urseren* (Ital. *Orsera*)—(*Inns*: Drei Könige (Poste); H. du St. Gothard, especially good and moderate, Dr. Christin is the host). It is a village of 600 Inhab., and the chief place of the valley, 4450 feet above the sea-level; 20 min. walk from the Devil's Bridge. The honey and cheese made on the surrounding pastures are excellent; and the red trout of the Oberalp See enjoy the reputation, with hungry

travellers, of being the finest in the world. They are at least an excellent dish, either at breakfast or dinner. The *Church of St. Columbanus* is said to have been built by the Lombards. On the slope of the mountain of St. Anne, which is surmounted by a glacier, above the village, are the scanty remains of a forest, the last relic of that which perhaps at one time clothed the sides of the valley entirely. "It is of a triangular form, with one of its angles pointed upwards; and is so placed as not only to break the fall of heavy bodies of snow, but to divide the masses, throwing them off on its two sides. It is now a slight and seemingly a perishable defence." The improvidence of the inhabitants, at an early period, had reduced it to a small grove, which those of later times had learned to value for the protection it afforded to their dwellings from falling avalanches. They therefore guarded it with the utmost care, abstaining from cutting down a stem of it; but, in 1799, foreign invaders, reckless of the consequences, felled a great part of it, and consumed it for firewood, or to repair the Devil's Bridge.

A carriage-road stretches up the steep lateral valley behind Andermatt, across the Oberalp to Disentis, on the Rhine, and Coire, in the Grisons. (Rte. 82.)

The vale of Urseren is about 9 m. long, and nearly 1 broad. It contains 4 villages, and 1360 Inhab., who gain a subsistence by rearing cattle and keeping dairies, and by forwarding the transit of goods across the St. Gothard, for which purpose 300 horses are kept in it. At Andermatt, Hospenthal, and Airolo, are many mineral-dealers, from whom specimens may be purchased of the numerous rare and valuable minerals with which the range of the St. Gothard abounds. The variety of species is surprising, and the cabinet of the mineralogist derives some of the rarest substances from these Alps.

On the l. of the road, in going to Hôpital, two rude stone pillars may be, or lately might have been, seen;

they are the *potence* or gallows belonging to Andermatt, dating from the time when the valley of Urseren was an independent state, and Andermatt, the chief place in it, enjoyed the right of criminal jurisdiction, now removed to Altdorf. The possession of a gallows, and the right of hanging criminals thereon, was an object of pride in ancient times. Such relics were once found throughout Switzerland: they seem everywhere to have been preserved almost with veneration, and were kept in constant repair, though destined never more to be used.

2 m. above Andermatt is

*Hospenthal*, or *Hôpital*—*Inns*: \*Mey-erhof, excellent; pension during the summer; guides, horses, and carriages found here;—Goldener Löwe (Golden Lion), very good. Excellent honey and trout, and horses and good carriages. Though not a post-station, this is a preferable stopping place to Andermatt.

Hospenthal receives its name from an hospice which no longer exists. Above the village rises a venerable tower, said to be, like the church of Andermatt, a work of the Lombards.

[The carriage-road over the Furca (Rte. 26) leads hence to the glacier of the Rhone, and the hospice of the Grimsel. It is a continuation of the road over the Oberalp to Disentis.]

The St. Gothard road now quits the valley of Urseren, and, following the course of the Reuss, begins to ascend by numerous zigzags to the summit of the St. Gothard, which may be reached in about 2½ hours from Hospenthal, walking.

Under the name of St. Gothard are comprised, not merely the depression, or col, over which the road passes, but a group or clump of mountains, all exceeding in elevation the snow-line, situated between the cantons of Uri, Valais, Ticino, and Grisons; and containing the sources of the Rhine, the Rhone, the Reuss, and the Ticino, all of which, with innumerable tributaries,

rise within a circle of 10 miles, described from the summit of the Pass.

The river Reuss may be said to fall, rather than flow, into the lake of the Four Cantons. Between Urseren and Flüelen it descends 3000 feet, and between Urseren and the top of the Pass 3000 more, forming a succession of cataracts. Near the summit of the Pass, the road crosses it for the last time by the bridge of Rodunt, which marks the boundary of the cantons Uri and Ticino. The source of the Reuss is in the small lake of Lucendro, a short distance on the right of the road. The summit of the Pass (6808 feet above the sea) is a valley, or saddle-shaped depression, in the great granite ridge of the central chain, overlooked by snow-clad peaks varying between 8000 and 10,000 feet in height. It is a scene of the most complete sterility and desolation: the road winds among several other small lakes or ponds, some of which flow N., but the greater part are feeders of the Ticino, on the S. side of the Pass. They may, indeed, be regarded as the head-waters of that river, which gives its name to the canton Tessin, or Ticino. A few minutes' walk below the summit is the *Post-house*, and close to it the

9 m. *Hospice*, a massive and roomy building, constructed at the expense of the canton Ticino, which has also caused several houses of refuge to be built, is designed for the accommodation of travellers, being fitted up roughly as an inn, containing 15 beds, under the management of a priest. Attached to it are warehouses for goods. From Oct. 1, 1860, to Oct. 1, 1861, 14,693 poor travellers were entertained at the hospice at a cost of 12,066 fr. A very humble hospice and a chapel have existed on this spot ever since the 13th century, owing their origin to the Abbot of Disentis, who stationed a monk here to minister to the spiritual as well as physical wants of distressed travellers. In the 17th century St. Carlo Borromeo suggested the construction of a hospice on a larger scale, which, after his death, was exe-

cuted by his brother. This building was swept away in 1775 by an avalanche: another, which succeeded it, was gutted by the French, while encamped on this spot in 1799-1800, and every particle of wood burnt as fuel. This older hospice, however, is still kept up. It was until lately the only house for the reception of travellers on the summit. There is an *Inn*, of a humble kind, close to the road.

The passage in winter and spring is by no means free from danger: the snow is sometimes heaped up in drifts 40 feet high on the summit, and the descent towards Airolo is much exposed at times to tourmentes and avalanches (§ 17). Although communication across the pass is seldom interrupted for more than a day or two at a time, ladies or delicate persons should not attempt the passage except during the summer or autumn. A year seldom passes without the loss of 3 or 4 lives, and at times melancholy catastrophes have occurred. The spot called *Buco dei Calanchetti* is so named from a party of glaziers from the Val Calanca, who, persisting in pushing on from the hospice, in spite of the warnings of the inmates, were buried here beneath the snow. In 1478 an avalanche swept away a troop of 60 Swiss soldiers; in 1624 another, which fell from the Cassadra, buried 300 persons; and one in 1814 overwhelmed 40 horses laden with goods. The new line of road is carried as much as possible out of the course of these dangers, and, though it is unprotected by any covered galleries, accidents of this kind are more rare.

The descent towards Italy displays much skilful engineering; and the difficulties of a slope, much steeper on this side than on the other, have been overcome by a series of 28 zigzag terraces not exceeded in numbers and tortuous direction on any other Alpine pass. They begin a little beyond the hospice, and continue nearly all the way to Airolo. The turnings are less sharp than on many other passes; and a carriage drawn by horses accustomed to the work may trot down at

a quick pace. Near the uppermost zigzag the words *Suwarrow Victor*, in large letters on the face of the rock, record the success of the Russians in gaining the Pass from the French in 1799. It was on this ascent that the Russian grenadiers were for some time arrested by the fire of the French riflemen posted behind rocks and trees. The aged Suwarrow, indignant at being foiled for the first time in his life, caused a grave to be dug, and, lying down in it, declared his resolution to be buried on the spot where "his children" had been repulsed. This appeal was responded to by his soldiers with warmth, and, when he once more put himself at their head, they drove the republicans from their position. The gully down which the road passes is called *Val Tremola* (Germ. Trümmeln Thal), Trembling Valley, from its supposed effect on the nerves of those who passed it. Since the new road has been made, its terrors, whatever they were previously, have been much softened. It is, however, exposed to some danger from avalanches in spring. A very pretty mineral, named from this locality, where it was first found, Tremolite, abounds in the rock of the valley, and specimens of it occur even in the walls and loose stones at the road-side. The old road lay along the l. bank of the Ticino; the new keeps on the rt. side of it, and before reaching Airolo makes many wide sweeps along the flank of the mountain, up into the Val Bedretto, traversing the forest of Piotella, where the slate rocks are full of crystals of garnet. The view up and down the vale of the Ticino and over the mountains on the opposite side of it is extremely fine.

8 m. *Airolo* (Germ. *Ericls*)—*Inns*: Post, best; Tre Re, good. Airolo lies on the l. bank of the Tessin, near the junction of the branch flowing out of the Val Bedretto with that rising on the St. Gothard. It is 3871 feet above the sea-level, and its inhabitants, both in habit and language, are Italian. The situation at the foot of St. Gothard, and the consequent

transit of travellers and goods, are its chief sources of prosperity. It possesses a relic of antiquity: the stump of a tower called *Il Castello*, and *Casa dei Pagani*, built, it is said, by Desiderius King of the Lombards, A.D. 774. The Lombard kings constructed a line of similar forts from this all the way to Como, many of which will be passed by the traveller in descending the valley.

The summit of the Pass may be reached from Airolo by a *light carriage* in 2½ or 3 hrs.; a leader must be taken up to the Hospice = 1½ post is charged; by means of the old road and short cuts a pedestrian may ascend, and even descend, in less time than a carriage.

[Several mule-paths meet at Airolo. 1. Up the Val Bedretto to the Nüfenen Pass (Rte. 63): 2. By the Uomo Pass into the Grisons (Rte. 84): 3. Into the Val Formazza by Hospital all' Acqua (see Rte. 62): 4. A summer path, and difficult, ascending by the N.W. side of the Val Canaria, past the beautiful waterfall of Calcaccia (?), and over the Nera Pass to Andermatt. The head of the Val Canaria is occupied by a small lake; the scenery is wild and rugged; and the pass, over which there is no defined track, is both steep and difficult.]

At the mouth of the picturesque glen of Stalvedro is a Lombard tower of King Desiderius, near Quinto. This pass was defended Sept. 1799, by a body of 600 French, against 3000 grenadiers of Suwarrow's army for 12 hrs., after which they effected their retreat over the Nüfenen into the Valais. The part of the valley of the Ticino traversed by the road from this to Biasca is called *Val Leventina*—*Livinen Thal* in Germ. A few miles lower down the river threads another defile, named after a toll-house within it.

*Dazio Grande*,—a rent in the Monte Piottino (Platifer), nearly a mile long, and one of the most picturesque scenes on the whole route. The old carriage-road threaded the depths of the gorge, supported for a great part of the way on arches and terraces, and crossing the river thrice on bridges. During the storms of 1834 and of 1839, the



swollen Ticino swept away nearly the whole of these costly constructions. A new line is now constructed at a higher level above the river, out of the reach of inundations, to replace that which has been destroyed;—a proof of the immense difficulty of maintaining a road over the Alps. The descent is less rapid than the old line; it passes 3 short tunnels. On emerging from the last of these a waterfall is seen on the rt. resembling that (now defunct) of the Pelerins near Chamouni,—a shoot of water projected forwards and upwards.

Chestnut-trees first appear soon after quitting the defile of Dazio, and vines are cultivated at

*Faido* — (Inns: Angelo, good;—Sole)—the principal place in the valley, a small town of 615 Inhab.

There is a pretty waterfall of the *Piumogna* opposite Faido, worth visiting, especially the upper fall, a short walk from the inn.

A revolt of the people of the Val Leventina, in 1755, against their tyrannical lords and masters the cowherds of Uri, to whom they had been subject since the 15th century, was terminated on this spot by the execution of the ringleaders, whose heads were fastened to the trunks of the chestnut-trees, in the presence of 3000 men of the valley. The troops of the Confederation had previously surrounded and disarmed this ill-starred band of rebels, and afterwards compelled them, on bended knees, to sue for mercy. The revolt was, perhaps, not to be justified; but one thing at least is certain, that the freedom which had been the boast of the Swiss republicans was, down to the end of the last century, denied by them to the states dependent on them, who groaned under a bondage more intolerable than that of any monarchical despotism!

A footpath runs from Faido over the Lukmanier (Rte. 85) to Disentis.

Through a highly cultivated tract the road reaches another fine defile full of chestnut-trees.

*Giornico* (Germ. *Irnis*: Inns, H. du Cerf, clean; La Corona, dirty), a [Switz.]

village of 700 Inhab. A high tower: the *Ch. of Santa Maria di Castello*, whose substructure is said to exhibit traces of a fort, attributed to the Gauls (?); and the *Ch. of San Nicholas da Mira*, regarded by the vulgar as originally a heathen temple. The architecture is of the rudest Romanesque style, and the E. end offers an unaltered specimen of the choir raised upon substructions that can hardly be called a crypt. Both these churches are certainly examples of the earliest form of Christian buildings, and highly deserve the attention of the architect and antiquary. The number and height of the church-towers on the side of the Alps, even on spots where wealth and population appear most scanty, are among the most striking features of this country. Instead of being surmounted by spires, as in the Roman Catholic valleys of the neighbouring Grisons, they are here piled story upon story in the Italian fashion, sometimes reaching even to an eighth tier, and ending in a ridge roof.

Halfway to

*Bodio* (Inn: Post), a heap of large rocks (*Sassi Grossi*) serves as a monument of the victory gained here in 1478 over the Milanese by the Swiss, who had made a foray across the St. Gothard as far as Bellinzona, under pretext of redressing the injury done by the Milanese, in having felled some trees belonging to canton Uri. The winter had set in with severity, and the main body of the Swiss had returned across the pass with their plunder, leaving behind only about 600 men under Captains Stranga of Giornico, and Troger of Uri. The Milanese, 15,000 strong, pressed forward to expel the highland invaders, who, resorting to stratagem to counteract the preponderance of numbers, laid the flat land in this part of the valley under water, and, placing themselves behind it, awaited their enemies at the foot of some rocks. In the course of the night the water froze hard, and next morning, while the advance of the Italians across the ice was naturally



slow and faltering, the Swiss, accustomed to cross their native glaciers, rushed down upon them in a furious charge, and at once put them to the rout. Their confusion was increased by vast masses of rock hurled from the cliffs above by parties stationed for the purpose, and the slaughter was enormous. According to some accounts 1400, according to others 4000, of the Milanese fell on this occasion.

The Val Leventina terminates a little beyond Pollegio, at the junction of the Blegno. After crossing that river the traveller reaches

*Biasca* (*Inn*: Union, poor and slovenly), which also contains a very ancient church, situated on the slope of the hill. A chain of chapels, or *Via Crucis*, leads from it up to the Chapel of St. Petronilla, whence there is a pleasing view.

Diligence daily to Olivone, on the way to the Lukmanier Pass, Rte. 85.

1½ m. from Biasca our road falls into that from the pass of the Bernardin (Rte. 91).

Below the junction of the rivers Moesa and Ticino stands *Arbedo*, memorable in history for the severe defeat which the Swiss sustained here from the Milanese, commanded by the celebrated generals Della Pergola and Carmagnola, in 1422. Near the Church of St. Paul, called *Chiesa Rossa*, from its red colour, 2000 Swiss lie buried under 3 large mounds, still distinguishable. Defeat was at that period so unusual to the Swiss, even from a greatly superior force, that they retired across the Alps abashed and discouraged.

The distant aspect of Bellinzona, surrounded by battlemented walls, which once stretched quite across the valley, and overhung by no less than 3 feudal castles, is exceedingly imposing and picturesque. It looks as though it still commanded, as it once did, the passage of the valley. The luxuriance of vegetation, and the magnificent forms of the moun-

tains around, complete the grandeur of the picture.

*Bellinzona* (Germ. *Bellenz*).—*Inns*: Angelo, clean and good; *Hôtel de Ville*, very fair and reasonable.

Bellinzona, situated on the l. bank of the Ticino, here restrained by a long stone dam (*Tondo Ripario*), and crossed by a bridge of 14 arches, contains 2361 Inhab., and is one of the 3 chief towns of the canton Tessin, and becomes the seat of government alternately with Lugano and Locarno, for 6 years together. Within, it has all the character of an Italian town in its narrow and dirty streets, and in the arcades which run under its houses. It stretches across the valley to the river, so that the only passage up or down lies through its gates. It is still a place of commercial importance as an entrepôt for the merchandise of Germany and Italy—situated as it is at the union of 4 roads—from the St. Gothard, the Bernardin, from Lugano, and from Locarno, on the Lago Maggiore. It is of still greater military consequence, as the key of the passage from Lombardy into Germany, and has been strengthened by modern fortifications. It became the fruitful cause of intrigue, contest, and bloodshed, between the crafty Italians and the encroaching Swiss. The latter first obtained possession of it, and of the Val Leventina, by a nominal bargain of 24,000 florins paid to the lord of Misox, and they obtained from the Empr. Sigismund a confirmation of their title. The Duke of Milan, Philip Maria Visconti, whose ancestors had lost this territory, by no means acquiesced in this transfer, and, seizing a favourable opportunity, surprised the Swiss garrison of Bellinzona by a Milanese force under Della Pergola, and took possession of the town and valley. It was this event which led to the battle of Arbedo, in which the Swiss received so severe a check. They afterwards twice gained possession of Bellinzona and its subject valleys by hard fighting, “by the help of God

and their halberts," as they boastingly proclaimed, first from the Duke of Milan, and next from the French, who, in the reign of Louis XII., obtained temporary possession of these valleys.

From the beginning of the 16th to the end of the 18th century, the Swiss maintained uninterrupted possession of Bellinzona, governing its territory as a state subject to the cantons, with a rule as tyrannic as that of the absolute dukes of Milan, their predecessors. Since 1814 it forms part of the canton Ticino, or Tessin.

The *three picturesque Castles* which still seem to domineer over the town, though partly in ruins, were the residence of the 3 Swiss bailiffs deputed to govern the district, and were occupied by a garrison, and armed with some pieces of cannon. The largest, called *Castello Grande*, or *San Michele*, on an isolated hill to the W. of the town, belonged to canton Uri, and now serves as an arsenal and prison, and there is a fine view from it. In a tall tower are confined the prisoners who are condemned to imprisonment for life for murder. The other prisoners are in chains, but do not seem unhappy: 1 fr. will procure admission to the prison and view. Of the two castles on the E. the lower one, *Castello di Mezzo*, belonged to canton Schwytz, and the highest of all, *Castello Corbario*, to Unterwalden; they are both unoccupied.

There remains little else to particularise here. A few hours of Bellinzona are quite enough, and Locarno is a more pleasant place, and the inn as good.

From Bellinzona the traveller has the choice of two roads to Milan: by the *Lago Maggiore* (Rte. 111), or by the *Lago di Lugano* (Rte. 115).

## ROUTE 35.

LAUTERBRUNNEN OR MÜRREN TO KIPPEL OR KANDERSTEG, BY THE TSCHINGEL GLACIER.

The passage of the Tschingel glacier has deservedly come into great repute among Alpine travellers during the last few years. The pass, especially the descent into the Lötsch Thal, is somewhat difficult, and none of the recognized precautions for glacier travelling should be omitted. If these be duly taken, with good guides, there is no danger. A good walker may easily perform the distance, either to Kippel or Kandersteg, in 1 day from Lauterbrunnen; but both in order to get early on the glacier, and to leave time for enjoying the scenery, which is of the grandest character, it is advisable to sleep at the chalet on the Steinberg Alp. This arrangement gives the traveller time to enjoy the scenery of the upper valley of Lauterbrunnen, and visit the fall of the Schmadribach on the preceding day, and a guide may be sent on to the Steinberg chalet to prepare the supper.

From Lauterbrunnen to the *Steinberg Alp* is a walk of 3 hrs., with a tolerable path, the latter part steep, but not difficult. From *Mürren* it takes rather less time by a pleasant path along the hill-side, passing a deserted silver-mine. The chalet was of the smallest dimensions, scarcely allowing space for more than 2 travellers to stretch themselves on the floor, while the guides and herdsmen stowed themselves away in a half-open hay-

loft; but a more commodious shed has lately been completed. The E. side of the lower part of the Tschingel glacier is reached at a point about 1 m. from the *châlet*. Immediately above this the glacier descends a steep rocky slope, making at the same time a bend, whose convex side is to the E. As the glacier itself is quite impracticable, it is necessary to reach its upper level by climbing the rocks on the western or concave side. At the part nearest to the bend of the glacier these do not appear very steep, but a little lower down, and immediately opposite the point at which the traveller first approaches the glacier, they appear impracticable; in one place, indeed, absolutely perpendicular. A practised mountaineer will, however, not fail to remark that the rocks near the glacier have all their edges rounded, and their surface smoothed, and he will generally see some loose blocks of ice lying at their base. Either indication is enough to show him that the spot is one which must be carefully avoided. Even if there were no danger, the smooth rocks are far more difficult to climb than the steeper, but rougher, rocks opposite. But this is one of the spots, common in the high Alps, where blocks of ice detached from the edge of an upper glacier fall at intervals over the rocks. There is but little chance of life for one who finds himself in the track of one of these falling blocks.

The passage of the glacier presents no difficulty, care being taken to keep well out of the range of the ice-blocks, whose scattered fragments travel some way over its surface. A steep bank of shattered slate on the W. bank of the glacier sometimes appears difficult to unpractised travellers. Above this is the very steep face of rock called the *Tschingel Tritt*, which is ordinarily considered to be the main difficulty of this route. It is not more than about 30 ft. high, and the goatherds and other natives are accustomed to place the trunk of a pine-tree leaning against the rock, so as to serve as a rude ladder. This, however, is constantly broken, or

carried away by avalanches, so that it more commonly happens that the traveller has to ascend by climbing the rock. As this is rough, and gives good hold both for feet and hands, an experienced cragsman finds no particular difficulty; but the guides never fail to give abundant, and even superfluous assistance, while they often neglect the necessary precaution of the rope, against the more real, but not apparent, dangers of the upper glacier.

Above the Tschingel Tritt the ascent continues for some distance up rather steep slopes, till about 2 hrs. from the *châlet* the passage of the upper glacier commences. If not pressed for time, it is well worth while to make a slight *détour* (scarcely  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hr.) to the *Gamschilücke*, an opening in the ridge on the rt., overlooking the Kien Thal (Rte. 36), and beyond it the plain of Switzerland and the distant range of the Jura. A portion of the panorama from this point of view is published in M. Gottlieb Studer's '*Topographische Mittheilungen*.'

In about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., ascending to the S.W. over the glacier, the col or pass is reached, between the Muthhorn, a dome-shaped summit, rising in the midst of the Tschingel glacier, and the *Frau*, or *Blümlis Alp*, which forms the northern barrier of its upper plateau.

At this point the routes to Kippel and Kandersteg diverge. In the direction which the track has hitherto followed, the snow sinks towards the S.W. into a glacier valley lying between the Blümlis Alp and the comparatively low and uniform range which extends from the Tschingelhorn to the Balmhorn and Alets. Over this latter range, which forms the boundary between Berne and Valais, lies the route to Kippel, in the Lötsch Thal.

A short descent, followed by a new ascent over moderate slopes of *névé* in a direction nearly due S., leads in about an hour to the summit, here called the *Peter's Grat*. One wide crevasse is passed near the top, but

the glacier shows no others. The traveller should, however, recollect, though the guides often forget it, that precaution on the upper glaciers is most needed when no danger is apparent. Let a party be securely tied together, and they may go pretty nearly where they please. The summit of the ridge is somewhat above 10,000 ft. in height, and commands a magnificent view; one too, which is new to most Alpine travellers. In addition to the grand ranges of snowy mountains which have been in view throughout the ascent, the traveller now finds himself exactly opposite to the chain whose two extremities are the *Aletschhorn* and the *Nesthorn*, and which separates the *Lötschthal* from the valley of the Rhone. The mean height of this magnificent range probably exceeds 12,000 ft. in height, and the *Nesthorn* or *Bietschhorn* from every point of view is a most striking and attractive object. The ascent of this peak, which probably commands the finest panoramic view to be found in the entire range of the Alps, unless that of the *Aletschhorn* be preferred to it, was first effected in 1859, by the Rev. Leslie Stephen, with 2 or 3 guides.

The broad snow-covered ridge of the Peter's Grat throws out several arms of glacier which descend into as many lateral valleys or glens of the *Lötschthal*. The usual course is to follow the E. side of the glacier which descends nearly due S. from the point at which the summit of the ridge is first attained. The slope, at first gentle, soon becomes more steep. The glacier varies extremely according to the season and the state of the snow. It is sometimes easy enough, sometimes decidedly difficult. At all times beware of concealed crevasses. In descending the grand views of the surrounding peaks are for a time concealed, and their place supplied by some wild rock scenery in the steep and narrow glen through which a torrent rushes to join the *Lonza* in the main valley below. In descending a barrier of rocks below the end of the glacier keep carefully to the

track which is known to the guides; there is no other practicable way.

Where the path emerges into the *Lötschthal* there a fine view of the *Nesthorn*, and of the great glacier which closes in the upper end of the valley, [over which lies the glacier route to the *Äggischhorn* by the *Lötschsattel* (Rte. 60). At the immediate foot of the pass, at *Platten*, accommodation may be had at the house of the *curé*; or similarly, 1½ hr. further at *Kippel*. This pass is sometimes made by taking the Peter's Grat at a point farther W., and descending into the *Lötschthal* by the W. side of the tributary glacier. In deciding the route it is best to rely on the local knowledge of the guides. In a favourable condition of the glacier the pass from the *Steinberg Alp* to *Platten* may be made in 8½ hrs., but it may require 1 or 2 hrs. more.

*Descent to Kandersteg.*—From the col, at which the two routes diverge, which forms the proper limit between the *Tschingel* and *Kander* Glaciers, the *névé* at first inclines with a gentle slope towards the *Gasteren Thal*. This gradually becomes steeper, and after an hour's descent the increasing width of the crevasses makes it necessary to quit the glacier for the rocks on its S. or L-hand bank. Here there is a spring, at which it is usual to halt for refreshment. A steep and rough descent without serious difficulty, and a short passage over the lower end of the glacier, lead in 2½ or 3 hrs. from the summit to the highest *châlets* of the *Gasteren Thal*. The scenery of this wild and savage valley is of the highest order, and well deserves an excursion from *Kandersteg* by those who do not cross the pass. A tolerable track, used by the herdsmen, leads in 2 hrs. from the *châlets*, sometimes called *Gasterendorf*, or *Im Selden*, where milk, cheese, and, in case of need, hay to sleep upon, may be obtained, to *Kandersteg* (Rte. 37). Time, about 9 hrs. from the *Steinberg* *châlet*, exclusive of the *détour* to the *Gamschilücke* and of stoppages. The *Laueners* of *Lauter-*

brunnen are excellent guides. J. Kronig is also well spoken of. In the Lötschthal Joseph Appener is well known and recommended.

*Kandersteg ; Inn, Victoria (Rte. 37).*

## ROUTE 36.

LAUTERBRUNNEN OR MÜRREN TO KANDERSTEG, BY THE PASSES OF THE SEEFINEN FURKE, AND DÜNDENGRAT.

Lauterbrunnen to	Hrs.
Mürren . . . . .	2½
Tschingel hamlet . . . . .	5
Kandersteg . . . . .	7½

There is probably no route among the Alps so free from danger, which leads through such a succession of magnificent scenery. The *two* passes, however, if taken in one day, make it very laborious, and the descent into the valley of Oeschinen is awkward after dark; the traveller, however good a walker he may be, will do well to allow himself 14 hrs. of daylight. At a small expense the path might be made quite practicable for mules, and is even now crossed by them. (See next page.)

On leaving Lauterbrunnen there is a choice of routes: one by the valley, following the char-road to Stechelberg, and then turning to the right up the course of the stream which drains the *Seefinen Thal*; the other plan, which is in many respects preferable, is to mount from Lauterbrunnen to *Mürren* (Rte. 25 B), and sleep there,

starting in good time on the following morning. The track mounts for some distance beyond Mürren, in order to turn the flank of a ridge which descends here from the Schilthorn on the rt. This brings the traveller to a position right opposite the Jungfrau, at about the height of the Wengern Alp, but with a view still more magnificent. The great chain of Alps from the Wetterhorn to the Breithorn is in front, its continuation through the Tschingel Horn to the westward, as also the Frau, being from this point of view shut out by the nearer precipices of the Gspaltenhorn. Still farther to the west is visible the Furke; and descending from it, the torrent and the valley of the Seefinen. The ground slopes rapidly away from the foot down to the depths of the Ammerten Thal. The Jungfrau is from this point of view, and from this alone, measured in one glance from the snow on her summit to the level road at her feet: in a word, of her 13,718 ft. of altitude, more than 10,000 rise at once in precipices before the eye. The track now winds away along the slope of the mountain, and falls in with the valley path just at the foot of the pass. This Furke is a very remarkable depression between the Schilthorn and Gspaltenhorn; and an enormous buttress of the latter here turns the direction of the route from W. to S.W. The ascent is rather steep, but the ground is favourable, and clear of snow; which lies, however, in long slopes to the left. The view from the summit (height 8572 ft.) is very fine, including the Faulhorn, and below it the Wengern Alp and its hotel, which is easily discernible. The upper part of the Kien Thal is seen to the l. filled up by the Gamschi glacier, over which it is said to be possible to gain the level of the Tschingel, through the opening called the Gamschilücke (Rte. 35). The descent into the *Kien Thal* requires rather an awkward circuit, which leads to a long slope of slate débris, requiring caution to avoid a slip. Next succeeds a long slope of snow, and then the greensward. The route taken by

the guides leads to a bridge near the hamlet of Tschingel, so low down the valley as to increase considerably the toil of the next ascent; and if the tourist is fatigued, or the sun much past the meridian, he will do well either to make up his mind to sleep at some chalets near the head of the Kien Thal, or else to take the opportunity which here presents itself of descending to the char-road at Reichenbach. The ascent of the ridge separating the Kien Thal from the Oeschinen Thal, called the *Dündengrat*, is steep, but over good ground, and a view is soon obtained of the pyramidal Niesen, and the lake of Thun beyond it. Near the top it becomes rather rough, and the stones are succeeded by a bed of snow, which adds a good deal to the fatigue of the last half-hour of ascent: from the snow to the top of the ridge is but one step, and the next is downhill. Here a new scene of magnificence opens. The glittering Frau, which is here quite close, with a triple glacier streaming down from her side into the gulfs beneath, and farther off the Doldenhorn, and the beautiful lake of *Oeschinen* encompassed by it, form a scene unparalleled in the Alps; though resembling in some of its features the lake and glacier scenery near the summit of the Maloja. The descent from the high pastures to the level of the lake is practicable only by one route, where a path has been cut in steps here and there along the faces of the rocks. The path leads along the W. shore of the lake through a pine wood beyond it, in about 2 hrs. to the village and inn of Kandersteg. From Mürren to Kandersteg is at least 10 hrs. walk exclusive of stoppages.

*Kandersteg* (see Rte. 37). The landlord of the Victoria proposes to convert this road into a mule-path. In 1866 he guided a lady with a mule to Mürren in 15 hrs.

## ROUTE 37.

PASS OF THE GEMMI, THUN TO THE BATHS OF LEUK (LÖRSCHE), AND TO LEUK IN THE VALAIS.

Thun to		Stunden.	Eng. m.
Frutigen	} Carriage-road.	4½	14
Kandersteg		2½	8
Schwarzenbach		2½	8
Leukerbad	} Bridle-path.	2½	8
Leuk		2½	8
		15	46

Carriage from Thun to Frutigen, 20 fr., 2 fr. bonnemain. Dil. 3 hrs., 2 fr. 20. A pleasanter route is to take the steamboat to Spietz a very pretty place, near which is a good country Inn, Schönegg. Hence a walk of 10 miles through fields leads to Frutigen. A carriage may usually be obtained at Spietz. Char from Frutigen to Kandersteg with bonnemain, 8 fr. 50. Horse to Leukerbad, 20 fr. To Dauben See, 10 fr.

[In approaching the Gemmi from Interlaken the high road to Thun is left a little beyond Leissingen, and a char-road mounts the hill to *Æschi* (see further), and descends from thence to Mühlinen, about 4 leagues from Interlaken. Pedestrians may make a short cut.]

The Gemmi (pronounced Ghemmi) is one of the most remarkable passes across the Alps. Its scenery is, per-



haps, extraordinary rather than grand. There is a good char-road for a mile and a half beyond Kandersteg, to the N. foot of the pass: the pass itself, and the space between it and the Baths, can only be surmounted on foot or on horseback.

The first part of the route lies along the beautiful shores of the lake of Thun. Near the tall tower of Strättlingen it crosses the Kander by a lofty bridge. That river originally avoided the lake altogether, and, flowing for some distance parallel to it, behind the hill of Strättlingen, joined the Aar below Thun. Owing to the quantity of mud and gravel which it brought with it, and the slight inclination of its channel in this part of its course, it converted the surrounding district into an unhealthy marsh, and gave rise to a project, which was executed in 1714 at the expense of the canton, of turning the river into the lake of Thun. This was effected by cutting a canal, 3000 ft. long, and 272 ft. broad, into which the river was turned; and which, seen from the bridge in crossing, has much the appearance of a natural ravine. By this change of course the land on the banks of the Aar has been drained and made profitable, while the deposit of sand and stones brought down by the river into the lake has so accumulated as to form a delta around its mouth, extending already nearly a mile from the shore, and annually increasing.

Wylér (5 m. from Thun) [a road turns l. up to the village of *Æschi*. The ascent of  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. will be well repaid by the view from the churchyard. At your feet the Lake of Thun, with a peep into the singular Justis Thal on its N. side; beyond Thun the range of the Jura. On the l., close at hand, the rival mountains Niesen and Stockhorn tower above the Simmenthal. To the rt. stretches the Lake of Brienz; the Rothhorn and Pass of the Brünig rising from its shores, topped by the Titlis. To the S. the snowy giants of the Oberland rear their massive forms. There is a carriage

road from *Æschi* direct to Mühlinen.]

The road passes the mouth of the Simmenthal (Rte. 42), guarded on one side by the Stockhorn, and on the rt. by the Niesen, two noble mountains, between which the valley opens out a scene of exceeding beauty, with the castle of *Wimmis* standing as it were in its jaws. [From *Wimmis* the *Ascent of the Niesen* is made in 5 hrs. (3 hrs. to descend)—a horse-path all the way, 7280 ft. high. There is an *Inn* with 12 beds, 5 min. walk below the summit. Grand view of fertile valleys and snowy Alps, including Mt. Blanc. The entire range N. of of the Rhone, from the Altels to the Wetterhorn is in sight. Dill's Panorama is hung up in the Inn.]

On the margin of the lake rises another picturesque castle, that of Spietz. Skirting the base of the pyramidal Niesen, we enter the valley of Frutigen, which is remarkable for its verdure and fertility, and may be said to exhibit Swiss pastoral scenery in perfection. At

*Mühlinen* (10 m. from Thun) is a nice little *Inn*, the Bear. At *Reichenbach* the *Kienthal* opens out to the S.E. (Rte. 36.) Ascending by the side of the Kander, we reach

*Frütigen* (*Inns*: Helvetia and Post, both very fair and reasonable; guides and mules for the Gemmi may be hired here), a village of 3500 Protestant Inhab.: its houses are for the most part not older than 1826-7, at which time nearly all were destroyed in two consecutive conflagrations. Behind it the valley divides into two branches; that on the W. leads to the Adelboden; that on the E. (down which flows the Kander) to the Gemmi.

[The ascent of the Niesen may be made from Frütigen in 4 hrs., but the path is much steeper than from *Wimmis*.]

The road passes under the castle of Tellenburg, the former residence of



the *amtman*, or bailiff of the district, and, crossing the Kander, proceeds up its rt. bank. The snowy *Altels* closes the valley.

*Kandersteg.* 2 *Inns*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile apart. *H. de l'Ours*, best, and conveniently situated for the *Gemmi*, being placed where the char-road ends, and the bridle-path begins. *H. Victoria*, opposite the entrance of the *Eschinenthal*, fair; a civil landlord. N.B. *Return* charrs to Thun may be got here for 8 to 10 frs.; with 2 horses, 12 to 20 frs. Horses to cross the *Gemmi* to the baths of Leuk cost 15 fr. before 9 A.M., 18 fr. after; 10 fr. to the *Dauben See*. From *Kandersteg* to *Leukerbad* is about 7 hrs.; the path is easy to find, and except in thick weather there is no occasion for a guide. *Kandersteg* is the last village in the valley: its scattered habitations contain about 700 individuals. It is beautifully situated 3280 ft. above the sea, at the N. base of the *Gemmi*. Wood cut in the mountain forests around is here set afloat in the Kander, and thus conveyed into the lake of Thun, where the logs are collected and separated by the various proprietors.

[*Excursions.*—*a.* Those who have time to spare should on no account omit to walk hence about 3 m. through a sublime gorge (see *Rte. 36*) into the side *Valley of Eschinen*, running directly E. from *Kandersteg*, where, hemmed in by precipices and glaciers, they will find a beautiful clear lake, which mirrors on its smooth surface the snowy peaks of the *Blumlis Alp*, at whose base it lies. This valley leads over the fine *Pass of Düdengrat* to *Lanterbrunnen* (*Rte. 36*).—*b.* No one will regret an expedition to the *Gasteren Thal*, which can be accomplished in about 7 hrs. No guide required. The path turns off close to the *H. de l'Ours*, and ascends a wild gorge with overhanging cliffs. In the middle of the gorge a frail bridge is crossed, and the path then keeps to the rt. bank. 50 m. from *Kandersteg* the wide green *Gasteren Thal* opens, surrounded by precipices and waterfalls and snow

mountains above them. The path runs through *débris*, and then ascends to the village of *Gasteren*. Soon afterwards the magnificent *Kander Glacier* is seen at the head of the valley (see *Rte. 35*). Those who have a steady head may from hence ascend the *Gemmi* by the rugged and difficult gorge of the *Schwarzbach*.—*c.* A path of no great difficulty leads W. in 5 hours, over the *Bonder-Grat*, to *Adelboden* (*Inn* tolerable.) It turns out of the char-road just above *Kandersteg*, crosses the grassy slopes to the foot of some rocks, which it surmounts by a ladder. From the summit (2 hrs. 50 min. walk) the view is fine, comprising the *Monch*, *Jungfrau*, and the whole of the *Eschinen-thal* and lake. From *Adelboden* to *Frütigen*, a walk of 2 or 3 hours, through a deep but rather monotonous valley. Above *Adelboden* is a fall of some magnitude. From *Adelboden* there is an easy path over the *Hahnenmoos* pass, in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., to *An der Lenk* (*Rte. 39*).]

#### To the Gemmi.

Immediately after leaving the *H. de l'Ours* the char-road ceases; and the ascent of the *Pass of the Gemmi* commences in earnest behind. The path lies for the first  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. through forests in a steep ascent; it then passes the boundary line of the cantons *Berne* and *Wallis*. A new path ascends in zigzags through fir woods, and commands a fine view over the grand valley of *Gasteren*. It then emerges upon a tract of open pasture land, rendered desolate by the fall of an avalanche from the *Rinder Horn* in 1782. The path winds, for a considerable distance, among the fragments of rock brought down by it. Farther on stands the

*Solitary Inn of Schwarenbach*: it affords good refreshments and rough sleeping accommodation, which are often acceptable in such a situation. Complaints of extortion have been made. The German poet *Werner* has laid in this gloomy spot the scene of a still more gloomy tragedy, 'The 24th of February.' The extravagant and

improbable plot has no foundation in any real event which happened here.

[From this Inn the ascent of Altels (11,923 feet) may be made in about 7 hrs. altogether. The ascent is up a long slope of ice, is dangerous, and should not be attempted by less than 3 men tied together.]

About 2 m. further on the path reaches and winds along above the E. margin of a small lake called *Dauben See*, supplied by snow, not by springs, which often swell it so as to cover the path: for 8 months of the year it is frozen. Nothing can exceed the dreary aspect of the seared and naked limestone rocks which form the summit of the pass: they seem too barren for even the hardiest lichens.

The culminating point traversed by the road is 7540 ft. above the sea level, and about 1 hr. from Schwarenbach. From a rocky eminence on the l. of the path, a superb view is obtained of the chain of Alps beyond the Rhone, separating the Valais from Piedmont.

The highest summits in the view, reckoning from the W., are these:—1. The Pigne d'Arolla, N.W. of the Collon; 2. the Collon itself, easily recognised by the deep cleft in its side; 3. the Dent Blanche. Then come three or four minor peaks of the range at the head of the Einfisch Thal. Above this range are seen—4. the Dent d'Erin; and, 5. the Cervin: both peaks of bare rock. The series is terminated by—6. the Weisshorn, the loftiest and nearest mountain visible; and, 7. the Saas Grat, which is in itself a complete group of snowy peaks. It is one of the most striking views in Switzerland.

Near the verge of the descent stands a small shed, capable of affording partial shelter in a storm. A little lower down the traveller finds himself on the brink of a precipice, from which a plumb-line might be thrown into the valley below, nearly 1600 ft., almost without touching the rock, so vertical are its sides. It is principally upon the faces of a buttress of this vast wall that one

of the most extraordinary of all the alpine roads, constructed in 1736-41, by a party of Tyrolese, has been carried. Its zigzags have been ingeniously contrived, for in many places the rocks overhang the path, and an upper terrace projects farther out than the one immediately below it. When it was first made and consisted merely of a shallow groove in the rock, it must have been far more striking than at present. The improvements that have been carried on year after year have ended in making it a roomy and perfectly good mule-path. It however needs greater protection at the side by garde-fous, and caution should be used in riding down this descent.

The wonders of this descent are greatly increased to those who approach it from the side of Leuk.

"The upper end of the valley, as you look towards the Gemmi, has all the appearance of a cul-de-sac shut in by a mountain wall. Up to the very last moment, and until you reach the foot of the precipice, it is impossible to discover the way out, or to tell whither the road goes, or how it can be carried up a vertical surface of rock. It is a mere shelf—in some parts a mere groove cut in the face of the huge cliff, just wide enough for a mule to pass; and at the turns of the zigzags you constantly overhang a depth of nearly 500 ft. Down this difficult road invalids are carried to the baths: it is the only way of approaching them from the N., unless you were to make a slight détour of 200 m. by Bern, Friburg, Vevay, and Martigny." On the face of a rock, near the foot, is a small building said to have been formerly used as a guard-house to give notice of any invasion from the Bernese side.

The following clause, relative to the transport of invalids, is copied from the printed regulations issued by the director of the baths:—"Pour une personne au-dessus de 10 ans il faudra 4 porteurs; si elle est d'un poids au-dessus du commun, 6 porteurs: si cependant elle est d'un poids

extraordinaire, et que le commissaire le juge nécessaire, il pourra ajouter 2 porteurs, et jamais plus." This provision for excessive corpulence is somewhat amusing. The ascent from the Baths to the summit takes 2 hrs. ; a mule costs 4½ fr. up and down.

*Baths of Leuk (Leukerbad, — Fr. Lœèche).* Inns: Hôtel des Alpes, best in all respects; Bellevue; H. de France; Couronne; Union; H. Brunner, cheap. The accommodation is good, considering that most of the houses are of wood, not very well built, shut up and abandoned from October to May. The fare is tolerable, everything but milk and cheese being brought from the valley below. A bath costs 2 fr.

There are 5 bath establishments attached to the hotels. Leuk Baths is a hamlet of about 300 Inhab., situated 4600 feet above the level of the sea, i.e. higher than the highest mountain in Great Britain, and at the end of a valley terminated on all sides by tremendous precipices, which will remind the traveller of a *cirque* in the Pyrenees. The hot springs (117° to 124° F.) annually attract a number of visitors, chiefly Swiss and French, during the season, viz. in the months of July and August, though the inns are open from May to October. The baths and adjacent buildings have been three times swept away by avalanches since their establishment in the 16th cent.; and, to guard against a recurrence of the calamity, a very strong dyke is now built behind the village to ward off the snow. Such danger, however, is past before the bathing season begins. One of the first patrons of the baths was the Cardinal and Archbishop of Sion, Matthew Schinner.

The springs, to the number of 10 or 12, rise in and around the village, and nine-tenths of them run off into the Dala torrent without being used. The chief spring of St. Lawrence bursts forth out of the ground between the inn and the bath-house—a rivulet in volume at its source, with a tempera-

ture of 124° Fahr. It is used for the baths after being slightly cooled. The other springs vary somewhat in temperature, but little in contents. They contain only a small portion of saline matter, and seem to owe their beneficial effects less to their mineral qualities than to their temperature and the mode of using them. The patient begins with a bath of an hour's duration, but goes on increasing it daily, until at length he remains in the water 8 hours a day—4 before breakfast, and 4 after dinner. The usual *cure time* (kur) is about 3 weeks. The necessity of preventing the ennui of such an amphibious existence, if passed in solitude, has led to the practice of bathing in common. The principal bath-houses are divided into compartments or baths, each about 20 ft. square, and capable of holding 15 or 20 persons. To each of these baths there are two entrances, communicating with dressing-rooms, one for the ladies, the other for the gentlemen. Along the partitions dividing the baths runs a slight gallery, into which any one is admitted, either to look on or converse with the bathers below. The stranger on entering will perceive a group of some 12 or 15 heads emerging from the water, on the surface of which float wooden tables holding coffee-cups, newspapers, snuff-boxes, books, and other aids, to enable the bathers to pass away their allotted hours with as small a trial to their patience as possible. The patients, a motley company, of all ages, both sexes, and various ranks, delicate young ladies, burly friars, invalid officers, and ancient dames, are ranged around the sides on benches, below the water, all clad in long woollen mantles, with a tippet over their shoulders. It is not a little amusing to a bystander to see people sipping their breakfasts, or reading the newspapers, up to their chins in water—in one corner a party at chess, in another an apparently interesting *tête-à-tête* is going on; while a solitary sitter may be seen reviving in the hot water a nosegay of withered

flowers. The temperature of the bath is preserved by a supply of fresh water constantly flowing into it, from which the patients drink at times. Against the walls are hung a set of regulations and sumptuary laws for the preservation of order and decorum in the baths, signed by the burgo-master, who enforces his authority by the threat of a fine of 20 fr. for the highest offence against his code.

“Art. 7. Personne ne peut entrer dans ces bains sans être revêtue d’une chemise longue et ample, d’une étoffe grossière, sous peine de 2 fr. d’amende.

“Art. 9. La même peine sera encourue par ceux qui n’y entreraient pas, ou n’en sortiraient pas, d’une manière décente.”

Four hours of subaqueous penance are, by the doctor’s decree, succeeded by one hour in bed; and many a fair nymph in extreme *négligé*, with stockingless feet and uncoiled hair, may be encountered crossing the open space between the bath and the hotels. From their condition, one might suppose they had been driven out of doors by an alarm of fire, or some such threatening calamity. The higher patients go away in September.

a. The principal curiosity of the neighbourhood is the *Ladders* (*Leiter*). A path through the woods, on the l. or E. side of the Dala,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., half an hour from the baths, leads to the foot of the precipice, which, as before observed, hems in the valley of Leuk on all sides, as with a colossal wall. Upon the sloping pasturages about a mile above the summit of this precipice, however, stands a village called *Albinen*; and the only mode by which its inhabitants can communicate directly with the baths is by a series of 8 ladders placed nearly perpendicularly against the face of the cliff. It can hardly be called difficult to climb to the top, but it would not do for any of weak nerves and a dizzy head, as the ladders, which are pinned to the crevices of the rock by hooked sticks, are often awry, and rather unsteady. yet

they are traversed at all seasons, day and night, by the inhabitants of the village above—by children, as well as men and women, often with heavy burdens. The use of the ladders, which the nature of the sides of the valley renders indispensable, has given rise to a Blumerish modification of the dress of the female peasants. In climbing the mountains the petticoat is tucked up, and the wearers do not differ in appearance from boys.

N.B.—There is an easy sloping path from *Albinen* to *Inden*.

b. A day may be well devoted to the ascent of the *Torrent-horn*, a mountain rising E. of Leuk baths, if the weather be clear. Mules can reach the summit (9760 ft. above the sea) in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours (10 fr. and *bonne-main*). It commands a wonderfully fine panorama of the Alps—an unbroken series of peaks from Mont Blanc to the Simplon; with the Altels, Gspalthorn, and Blumlis Alp on the N. The Gemmi road lies deep below, and its summit is seen through a gap in the chain. The ridge ends in a frightful precipice surrounded by isolated rocks, whose sides are equally vertical. Pedestrians will require a guide to find the path up. The first 1200 ft. and the last 700 are a steep climb. Descent in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

The rocky pass, called *Felsen Galerie*, on the opposite side of the Dala, on the way to *Siders*, is a very striking scene. (See below.)

Mules are kept at the baths, under the direction of a commissaire, to transport travellers: the prices are fixed by a printed tariff. (§ 10.)

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There are two ways from the baths of Leuk to the valley of the Rhone.

a. The carriage-road from the Baths to the Simplon road follows the course of the *Dala* torrent through one of the finest gorges in Switzerland; and the road, well engineered, descending by numerous zigzags,

crosses the river by a solid and lofty bridge, 420 ft. above the torrent, opposite Albinen, and conducts, in about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  m. ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. walk), to Leuk. A slow omnibus goes daily from the Baths, once in winter (?), twice in summer, to Susten and Sion.

*Leuk* (Löeche) (*Inn*: Couronne), a village of 1123 Inhab., on the rt. bank of the Rhone, near its junction with the Dala. A covered bridge over the Rhone connects it with the Simplon road (Rte. 59). Above it are ruins of two castles, destroyed by the Valaisans in 1414.

b. A mule-path carried along the W. side of the valley of the Dala, but high above that river, conducts at once to the town of *Sierre* (Siders), 12 m. distant, and is a short cut for those who wish to *descend* the valley of the Rhone towards Martigny and Geneva. It traverses the high pasturages, and beyond them a forest of larch; and passes the village of Inden, near which an extensive view is gained over the valley of the Rhone, its towns, villages, farms, and old castles. The unsightly débris brought down by the furious torrents issuing from the opposite valley, and the wide expanse of bare gravel overflowed by the Rhone in spring, but in summer left bare and arid—give a desolate character to the scene.

Between Inden and a village called Varen the road makes an abrupt turn, and the traveller finds himself beneath the shadow of a tremendous overhanging precipice, forming the corner of the Löeche valley. The path is carried along a narrow ledge in front of the cliff; beneath it is a gaping abyss, extending nearly down to the bed of the Dala, and above, the rocks lean so far forward that stones falling from their tops would descend upon the road, and it is therefore partly protected by a roof. This spot is called the *Galerie*, and was the scene of a bloody combat in 1799, when the Valaisans defended this spot for several weeks against the French, effectually checking all at-

tempts to pass, by rolling down stones and logs from above.

A rough and steep descent leads from this, in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour, to

*Sierre*, upon the Simplon road (Rte. 59). At Susten is a good *Inn*

## ROUTE 38.

TURTMAN AND KIPPEL TO KANDERSTEG,  
BY THE LÖTSCH PASS.

This pass between the Valais and the canton Berne was formerly in much use, and remains of the mule-path, which was then carried across the entire way, are still to be seen. Since the construction of the Gemmi road more than a century ago, this has been let to fall into decay, and the extension of the glaciers, which seems to have been universal in this part of the Alpine chain, has destroyed part of the old route. The pass is not difficult in good weather, but it is better suited for a mountaineer than an ordinary tourist. It may be accomplished in 8 hrs. good walking, so that a traveller wishing to avoid the indifferent accommodation at Kippel may start from, or arrive at, Tourtemagne (Rte. 59) in the same day.

The Lötschthal has been too much neglected by Alpine travellers, and no inn has yet been opened, but it abounds in fine scenery and leads to several interesting passes (Rtes. 35, 60). Mines of argentiferous galena are worked in it. It is approached from Tourtemagne on the Simplon road.

2 miles above Tourtemagne a bridge over the Rhone leads in 1 min. to the village of Gampel (*Inn*, homely), at the mouth of the narrow and steep valley of the Lötschthal, rising, not in terraces, but with a rapid and continuous ascent. After Gampel a steep ascent up the l. bank of the Lonza succeeds (now mastered by a good road), commanding fine views over the Rhone. The path next enters a gorge. About an hour from Gampel there is a fall, not visible from the road, of no great height, but a large volume of water. Beyond the (4 m.) chapel of Koppigstein, which is constantly swept away by avalanches, you (1 m.) cross the Lonza to its rt. bank. A group of cottages soon appears in a lovely scene of meadow, wood, and rock, overhung by superb peaks, after which the character of the valley is more cheerful as far as

1½ m. *Ferden* (*Inn*, homely), where it turns sharply to the east. At the angle, the view along both branches of the valley is superb; the upper portion is wider and longer than that which has been passed, extending to the great Lötschgletscher, a branch of the sea of ice around the Jungfrau, overhung by the Lauterbrunn Breithorn on one side, and the Schienhorn, an offset of the Aletschhorn, on the other; while on the S. the Nesthorn and other very lofty mountains rise steeply in icy peaks. The curé's house at

*Kippel*, 15 min. from *Ferden*, affords poor accommodation for sleeping, but has hitherto been the usual lodging of visitors to this valley. Joseph Appener is a good guide. The curé was an active mountaineer, but is now an old man. Few or none of the people can

speak anything but their own German patois. It is said that equally good accommodation can be obtained 1½ hr. (4 miles) higher up, at

*Platten*, which is reached through magnificent larch woods, after which, on ascending to the *Loetschberg* there is about 2½ hrs. over pastures, bare stony slopes, and beds of snow, to the Col (8796 ft.), overhung by the grand precipices of the Balm-horn, which forms the eastern end of the Altels group. ["By giving 2 or 3 hrs. more to the excursion, a high peak to the E., called the *Hoch-horn*, may be ascended. Our guide did not suggest it till we had nearly reached the Col, from which it is 1½ hr., chiefly over ice. Some fearfully steep slopes are to be crossed, from which the eye plunges down right into the Gasterenthal, 5000 to 6000 ft. beneath. A singular and most striking scene occurs in passing round an insulated steeple of rock, rising out of the ice, with a pool of clear blue water at its foot. Between it and the peak lies a narrow isthmus of ice, sloping steeply down on either side; after passing this, the icy shoulder of the mountain is to be wound round, with empty space on two sides; and then the last ascent, up a sharp pile of stones, takes 15 min. The view is superb. To the S. and S.W. Monte Rosa, the Matterhorn, and Mont Blanc towering far above nearer mountains, are the leading objects. To the E. the Tschingel-horn and other points of the chain on which we stood, extending to the Jungfrau and the Aletschhörner. To the W. a sea of lower mountains towards the Simmenthal, and an extensive view over the Bernese lowlands. Retracing our course for a good way, we then descended over bare rocks and beds of snow to the lower part of the Balm-gletscher, and reached in a short 2 hrs. from the Hoch-horn the point where the direct route across the Lötschberg quits the glacier, after lying across it probably for 1½ to 2 m. Thence there is about 1½ hr. of very steep descent into the Gasterenthal. The river is to



be crossed by a bridge, which must not be missed : thence to Kandersteg, about 2 hrs."—*E. W.*]

Even without making the excursion to the Hochhorn, the view from the summit of the pass is extremely fine, decidedly superior to that from the Gemmi, or any of the passes over the chain to the E. of it. In descending into the Gasterenthal there are some long slopes of snow, giving opportunity for a *glissade*; when the glacier is reached, which now covers over the old track, it is advisable to keep to its l. hand or W. side, nearest to the rocks of the Altels, which towers over the valley. After nearly an hour's descent over the glacier the track emerges into the Gasterenthal near to the chalets of Im Selden (Rte. 35). The view of the surrounding peaks and the Kander glacier descending from the high plateau at its upper extremity is magnificent (see Rte. 35). The lower end of the Gasterenthal is crowded with huge blocks, some of them probably brought down by avalanches, while others have been transported by ice from the peaks at the head of the valley. In 2 hrs. the traveller reaches Kandersteg (Rte. 37).

## ROUTE 39.

PASS OF THE RAWYL.—THUN, OR INTERLAKEN, TO SION OR SIERRE.—THE GRIMMI.

The pass of the Rawyl begins at An der Lenk, at the N. foot of the pass, a good halting-place, about 36 m. from Thun; diligence twice a day from Thun to Zweisimmen, thence 3 hrs. walk to An der Lenk; thence to Sion, over the mountain, is fully 10 hrs., or to Sierre 11 hrs. It is traversed sometimes on horseback, but is better calculated for the pedestrian. From Sion to the top of the pass there is a good mule-path, recently much improved. Nothing but a little milk is to be had between An der Lenk and Sion, therefore provisions ought to be taken. The scenery on both sides of the pass resembles that on the S. side of the Gemmi.

The village of An der Lenk may be reached from the lake of Thun, by following the Simmenthal, along which there is a good char-road, or by the Diemtigen Thal and the pass of the Grimmi, a route accessible only to pedestrians; or, thirdly, by Frutigen, the Engstligen Thal, and Adelboden. The scenery by the Diemtigen Thal is inferior; and there is little saving of time. In going from Interlaken the way by the Engstligen Thal is decidedly shorter for pedestrians.

a. The road up the *Simmenthal* is described (Rte. 42) as far as Zweisimmen. Thence the char-road is continued, bearing to the l. up the Ober Simmenthal, about 10 m., to An der Lenk.

b. The route by the *Diemtigen Thal* leaves the Simmenthal at Lattenbach 10 m. from Thun. A path there strikes off up the Diemtigen Thal, crosses the stream of the Chivel, and follows its l. bank through Diemtigen and Narrenbach, then recrosses it to

*Thiermatten*, where there is an inn, about 4 hrs. from Lattenbach, or 4½ from Wimmis, from whence a path



mounts the valley by the rt. bank. About a mile beyond this it again passes the stream, and, leaving it on the l., gradually ascends to the pass of the *Grimmi* (5580 ft.), 3 hrs. from Thiermatten. Descending through the *Fermel Thal* (a fertile valley, only 6 m. long), it reaches

*Matten*, in the Upper Simmenthal, on the char-road leading from Zweisimmen to An der Lenk, 4 m.

c. The route by the Engstligen Thal quits the road of the Gemmi at Frutigen (Rte. 37), where the torrent from that valley joins the Kander (5½ hrs. from Interlaken). From Frutigen it is a walk of 4½ hrs. to *Adelboden*, where there is a small *Inn* near the church. A pedestrian in good training who has started early from Interlaken, may reach An der Lenk in the same day by the low pass of the *Hahnenmoos*, 3 hrs. walk to

*An der Lenk—Inns*: Bad-Hohliebe, excellent, landlord speaks English: Bär; Stern; Krone, clean and reasonable, attentive host; beautifully situated near the base of the *Wildstrubel* (10,716 Eng. ft.) Strong sulphureous springs, temp. 48° F., much used by the Swiss, 3309 ft. above sea.

The Simmen rises about 6 m. above An der Lenk, at the foot of the glacier of Rätzliberg, from a source called the Seven Fountains. In the source itself there is little to compensate for the trouble of the ascent to it, but the scenery around it is of great grandeur. Between it and An der Lenk the Simmen forms several cascades. There is a char-road for about 3 m. from An der Lenk towards the Sieben Brunnen. An interesting account of glacier excursions about An der Lenk, including two ascents of the *Wildstrubel*, and a passage over the glaciers between this and the Gemmi pass, has been given by Mr. Hinchliff in 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers.'

The path to Sion, is passable for a char for about 3 m. Instead of proceeding towards the source of the Simmen, it ascends the l. bank of its tributary, the *Iffigenbach*; and the gorge of that torrent, flanked by vast precipices, is in places very grand.

The solitary traveller should beware of losing time by crossing a tempting bridge about halfway to *Iffigen*, a little below a very picturesque waterfall.

*Iffigen*, a group of farm-houses, one of which is a tolerable *Inn*, at the N. base of the Rawyl, near which the *Iffigenbach* makes a very fine fall, is a good 2 hrs. walk from Lenk. Another 2½ hrs. will bring you to the cross on the summit by proceeding steadily.

A series of zigzags mounts the steep side of the mountain above *Iffigen*. The path has been excellently constructed over this part of the pass, and workmen are constantly employed in keeping it in repair. The small cascades that used to fall on the path from the rock above, have been diverted, and the way throughout is so broad that the most timid person need not fear any uneasiness. From the brow of the precipice, looking N., a fine view expands over the valley of An der Lenk, and the mountains of the Simmenthal covered with fine pastures and farmhouses. Crossing a bed of snow, the path leads up to

The summit of the pass of the *Rawyl*, marked by a cross (7960 ft.). The summit is probably 2 m. broad, covered with loose shattered fragments of slate, and almost utterly bare of vegetation. When clouds lie on the pass, a stranger cannot trace the path over the stones, which is tedious from the number of gullies, and the alternately crumbling and slippery nature of the soil, consisting of clay-slate, which gradually changes into clay. A small lake is reached before the traveller gains the brow of the S. declivity of the mountain, consisting of precipices similar to those on the side of Berne. The view hence of the mountains on the S. side of the vale of the Rhone, especially of the *Matterhorn* and its glaciers, is sublime. A zigzag path conducts down the cliffs to the chalets of Rawin in 1 hr. 15 min. The descent is good, the path having been recently reconstructed. Close to these chalets two large bodies of water burst, one on either hand from the cliffs, forming

fine falls. That on the rt. has an uncommonly fine and singular appearance, bursting out of a black cleft in the face of a broad and precipitous rock, in 5 or 6 distinct columns, and afterwards forming a fine wild tumble of foaming water. Though apparently clear when issuing from the rock, it has no sooner touched the ground than it becomes a river of liquid mud, a large portion of which is a short way below separated from the torrent, and conducted very ingeniously along the face of the mountain, and at one part against a perpendicular cliff, till, after a course of several miles, it fertilises the meadows near Ayent.

Two paths branch off at the chalets of *Rawin*; the one leading in 5½ hrs. to *Sierre*; the other, on the rt. bank of the stream, through *Ayent* to *Sion* in 4½ hrs. The walk from the chalets of *Rawin* to *Sierre* is very fatiguing, owing to the frequent ascents and descents. For nearly half an hour from *Rawin*, the rt.-hand path runs nearly on a level: it next rises for some distance to turn a rocky barrier, and then descends on *Ayent*. Foot passengers can avoid this ascent by following the bank of the water-course before mentioned, which saves nearly an hour. The most dangerous part takes 10 min. or ¼ hr. to traverse. The only way of passing is along trees supported on cross bars against the face of the precipitous rocks at a considerable height above the stream. The scene here is very grand. The rock hangs over on the rt. side, and on the l. recedes beneath to a depth of 1000 ft. The trees are placed singly above the bed of the watercourse, and are not more than a few inches wide, and not very firmly secured, which increases the danger. This track should not be attempted by persons in the least liable to giddiness or nervousness.

The other and longer road is practicable for mules from *Sion* up to the top of the pass. For some distance it lies amidst forests of fir. It unites with the footpath before reaching

*Ayent* (accommodation at the *cure's*),

about 3 hrs. walk from the summit, passing the hamlet of *Grimseln*.

*Sion* (Rte. 56), in 1½ hr.

At *Sion*, experienced guides and mules may be obtained for the ascent of the *Rawyl*, called *Ravoué* in the patois of the *Valais*.

## ROUTE 40.

LENK TO LAUENEN, BY THE TRÜTTLISBERG.—LAUENEN TO GSTEIG, BY THE CHRINEN.

This is a mule-road of 5½ hrs., and does not require a guide. Beyond the church of *An der Lenk*, the path, after traversing meadows and groves and pastoral scenery with the magnificent glaciers of the *Wildstrübel* and the *Wildhorn* in sight, begins to ascend on the N. side of the valley to the *Ober Staffel*, a plain which is reached in 2½ hrs. An hour more brings the traveller to the pass of *Trüttlisberg* (about 5900 ft.), between the *Dauben* and the *Stublen*. A steep descent leads in 1½ hr. to

*Lauenen* (*Inn*: *Bär*, rough, but not uncomfortable), whence in 2 hrs. over the *Chrinen* (5000 ft.). [*Saenen* may be reached in 2 hrs. from *Lauenen* (Rte. 42) by a good char-road through very pleasing scenery.]

*Gsteig*. *Inn*: *Hirsch*, dear and dirty, but not so bad as it looks. (Rte. 41.)

## ROUTE 41.

PASS OF THE SANETSCH (IN FRENCH SENIN).—SAANEN TO SION.

About 12 hrs.

This is a long, steep, and tedious horse-pass, but not dangerous except in very bad weather. The village of Saanen (or Gessonay), and the road between it and Thun, are described in Rte. 42. Char-road from Saanen to Gsteig, about 11 m.

At *Staad* the path turns S. by the valley of the *Saane*, the upper end of which is called Gestig-Thal, to

*Gsteig* (Châtelet in French), (*Inn* tolerable), the highest village in it, situated close under the lofty and precipitous Mittaghorn, and near the foot of the Sanetsch, the most westerly of the passes over the Bernese chain.

[From Gsteig there is an easy pass by the *Col de Pillon* (5150 ft.), which leads to the Hôtel des Diablerets (Rte. 43), and to Les Iles in the Val d'Ormond dessus, whence there is a beautiful path to Bex by the Col de la Croix, and a char-road by Sepey to Aigle and the lower Valais.]

It is advisable to sleep at Gsteig, from which Sion is distant 10 easy hrs., or 8 hrs. hard walking. The pass rises from this place in a very precipitous manner, and often resembles the pass of the Gemmi.  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. above Gsteig the Saane makes a beautiful fall, clearing the face of the rock by at least 100 ft. In the evening it is crowned by an iris. The path continues by the side of the Saane up to its source. Lovely view looking back on Gsteig. After a climb of

2 hrs. a grassy plain is entered, which is surrounded with abrupt rocky mountains, and which leads by a gentle ascent of an hr. to

The summit, 7365 ft. above the sea-level, a wild, rocky, solitary plain 3 or 4 m. long, called *Kreutzboden*, barely relieved by a few patches of vegetation. To the W. the *Sans Fleuron* glacier descends from the *Oldenhorn* (ascended in 1857 by Mr Hinchliff and Mr. Bradshaw Smith), near to the summit the *Kreutzboden*. The pass is not a grand one, but the mountains of the great chain of the Alps are finely seen, from Mt. Velan and Mt. Combin to the Dent d'Erin and the Dent Blanche, in the neighbourhood of the Matterhorn. But neither that remarkable peak nor any part of the Weisshorn, Rothhorn, or Monte Rosa, are visible. The whole of the straight, steep Val d'Erin from the Valais, and the glacier of Ferpêcle, are seen directly in front. On the other side the descent is steep but grassy all the way down to the pine forests, through which the road to Sion is tedious, but not unpleasing.

2 m. from the summit the *Morge* river is crossed, and after 4 m. of bad winding road, passing a chalet, is again crossed by the Pont Neuf, a substantial stone foot-bridge 200 ft. above the black stream. "There is a very pleasing yet grand view from this point. The black slate rocks rise on the E. to a height of about 2500 ft. Portions of rock have been detached and stand upright from the valley, each the height of a small mountain. The hill on the W. is covered with fir-trees. A white horizontal line will be observed on the face of the slate mountain (rt.); this is the wall of a water-course constructed at the sole expense of a farmer's wife to supply her native village with water for irrigation, of which she had felt the want in her lifetime, and for which she left the whole of her fortune at her death." The descent continues for about 5 m. through the ravine of the Morge. Near its mouth is a ruined castle, and fine view over the valley of the Rhone, the Matterhorn, &c. The only village,

Chandolin (humble *Inn*, good wine) is the first place from Gsteig where refreshments can be procured. Here

and at Saviese are many narrow lanes, through which the way is intricate to find. Fine view, as you descend, of the 3 castles of

*Sion* (Rte. 56). (*Time from Sion: walking to Chandolin 1½ hr.; to summit of pass, 4 hrs.; to Gsteig, 3½ hrs.*)

ROUTE 42.

THUN TO VEVAY, BY THE SIMMENTHAL; SAANEN, CHÂTEAU D'OEX, AND GRUYÈRES:—PASS OF THE DENT DE JAMAN.

26½ leagues = 79 Eng. m.

	Leagues.	Eng. m.
Thun		
Weissenburg . . .	4½	= 14
Zweisimmen . . .	3½	= 11
Saanen (Gessenay) . .	2½	= 9
Château d'Oex . . .	2½	= 7
Montbovon . . . .	3	= 7
Bulle . . . . .	3½	= 10
Vevay . . . . .	6½	= 19
	26½	79

An excellent carriage-road. The inns and the means of travelling are not good. The valley abounds in rich cultivation, fields, orchards, and garden meadows reaching to the tops of the hills, with houses and villages lying along the banks of the river, varied with fir forests, rocky gorges and open basins, entirely of a pastoral character.

A diligence with 9 seats every morning from Thun to Saanen (Fr. Gessonay) in 9 hrs. A lighter vehicle with 6 places only leaves Saanen in the morning, and reaches Vevay in about 10 hrs. Those who can walk or ride will prefer to reach

Vevay from Château d'Oex, or Montbovon, by the Dent de Jaman.

6 m. The entrance to the Simmenthal lies between the Stockhorn on the rt. and the Niesen on the l., and is approached from Thun by the road along the margin of the lake (see Rte. 37), and the banks of the Kander, as far as its junction with the Simmen, a little below the picturesque castle of Wimmis, which our road leaves 1 m. on the l.

Brothäusi at foot of Niesen (*Inn, Hirsch*).

About 3½ m. farther is *Erlenbach* (*Inn, Krone*). From this parsonage Latrobe started on those Alpine expeditions which he has described in so admirable and interesting a manner in his *Alpenstock* (an excellent English guide with a foreign name). The Stockhorn (3 hrs. ascent) rises almost immediately behind the village of Erlenbach.

4½ m. *Weissenburg* [has a rough country *Inn* (Post), where mules may be hired, and chairs with bearers, to convey persons who do not choose to walk, to the *Sulphur Baths of Weissenburg*, between 2 and 3 m. from this. There is an ascent immediately on leaving the village, but after that the path winds through a beautiful defile till the Old Bath-house, singularly situated in a profound chasm, bursts upon the view, in a little nook between the boiling torrent Buntschi and the rocks. This building is now almost exclusively occupied by peasants, as a large new *Hotel* and bath-house of a superior class has been opened near the mouth of the gorge. This is well kept by an attentive landlord, and the charges are reasonable. The scenery around is highly picturesque, but inaccessible to all but stout climbers, except along the road to Weissenburg. The waters contain sulphur, magnesia, soda, and iron, and are efficacious in removing internal obstructions. The source is ½ m. higher up the gorge, and the water (above 82° Fahr.) conveyed to the baths in wooden pipes car-

ried along the face of the precipice. Some way up the ravine the peasants have formed a pathway out of it to the upper pastures, by cutting notches or rude steps in the face of the rock, and partly by attaching ladders to it. By this means they scale a dizzy precipice between 200 and 300 ft. high. The pedestrian bound for the upper Simmenthal need not retrace his steps to Weissenburg, as there is a short cut direct from the baths to Oberwyl, on the high road.]

The *Simmenegg* is a defile formed by 2 projecting rocks, between which the road passes to

4½ m. *Boltigen* (*Inn*: Bär; trout-fishing here), a village situated 2600 ft. above the sea, a little to the S. of the old castle of *Simmenegg*. The ruined castle of *Laubeck* overlooks the road, which is now carried round the eminence, avoiding a steep ascent. The gorge of *Laubeck* is a scene of grandeur. Near *Reidenbach* there are coal-mines. [Two paths lead from *Reidenbach* to *Bulle*, each in about 8 hrs. One over the *Klus* is steeper and more mountainous; the other, by *Bädermoos*, through lower country, with pastoral scenery alternating with pine forests. Either path leads down the valley of the *Jaun* and shortens the journey to *Bulle* by about 4 leagues.] The river is crossed 3 times before reaching

6½ m. *Zweisimmen*, a village of 1200 Inhab., composed of old brown and red wooden houses (no good *Inn*: *Lion*; *Krone*), at the junction of the great and lesser *Simmen*. The *Castle of Blankenburg* crowns the height about a mile above it. Until the democratic revolutions in canton *Berne*, it was the residence of the landvogt, who now occupies his own humble farm-house beside it. It is still the seat of the government, and the prison. [A char-road l. runs hence past (3 m.) *St. Stephan* (*Inn*: *Alter Schweitzer*), to (2½ m.) *Matten* and (3½ m.) *An der Lenk* (see *Rte. 39*).]

The road to *Bulle* and *Vevay* now quits the *Simmenthal* by a very steep ascent, through beautiful scenery, in which rugged peaks of limestone are

interspersed with grand forests of pine, and, turning to the S.W., crosses an elevated tract of pasture-land called the *Saanen-Moser*, till it descends upon

9 m. *Saanen* (*Fr. Gessonay*)—(*Inns*: *Grosslandhaus*; *H. de Kranich*; *l'Ours*), the principal place in the pastoral valley of the upper *Saane* (*Sarine*), whose 3629 Inhab. are almost exclusively cattle-owners, or occupied in their dairies, and in manufacturing excellent cheese, exported to all parts of the world as *Gruyères* cheese. A kind peculiar to the valley, too delicate to bear exportation, is called *Fötschhari-käse*. [The ascent of the *Sanetsch Pass* (*Rte. 41*) is made from this. Taking the char-road to *Gsteig* (9 m.), you may cross *Col de Pillon* to *Sepey*, in *Val des Ormonds*, and *les Diablerets* (*Rte. 43*). There is also a pleasant footpath leading to *Gruyère* over *Grubenberg* in 2½ hrs.; then by *Ablatschen* 1½ hr.; then by *Jaun* 1½ hr. (*Bellegarde* in French), *Inn*, clean. And lastly down the valley of the *Jaun*.]

The road beyond this is hilly. A little below *Saanen* we pass out of *Berne* into canton *Vaud*. German, the language of the upper extremity of the valley, is soon exchanged for a French patois, in the lower portion, which is called *Pays d'en haut Romand*. The first *Vaudois* village, 2½ m., is *Rougemont* (*Germ. Rothberg*—*Inn*: *Kreutz*). Its château was formerly a convent.

4½ m. *Château d'Oex* (*Oesch*)—(*Inns*: *L'Ours*; *Maison de Ville*)—a village of 2300 Inhab., 3030 ft. above the sea, rebuilt after a conflagration in 1800. The château, after which it is named, is replaced by a church on the height where once it stood. The road next crosses the *Saane* to 1½ m. *Moulins*. [Hence a path strikes off into the *Val des Ormonds* (*Rte. 43*) by the *Monette*, also leading into that over the *Dent de Jaman*.] At 1½ m. a turn to the l. leads across the river, passing to *Rossinière*, the ancient *Pension Henscholz*. It is highly praised; charge for bed and board, 4 fr. 50 c. a day. The pass of the *Tine* between very grand rocks and pines leads to

4 m. *Montbovon*—(Bubenberg. Inn: H. de Jaman, fair, clean, and civil)—which Byron calls “a pretty scraggy village, with a wild river and a wooden bridge:” it is situated in canton Freyburg. A few horses are kept here for hire. It is better to order them from Vevay the day before.

[A horse-path over the highly interesting *Pass of Dent de Jaman* (Jommen Pass), 4890 ft. above the sea-level, descending upon the Lake of Geneva above Montreux, will bring the traveller to Vevay, a walk of 5 hrs. After reaching the Col. and descending about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the path divides, the rt. leading to Vevay, the l. to Montreux. Guide needless. Byron, who crossed this path, describes the whole route as “beautiful as a dream.” “The view from the highest points (we had both sides of the Jura before us in one point of view, with alps in plenty) comprises, on one side, the greatest part of Lake Lemman; on the other, the valleys and mountain of the canton of Freiburg, and an immense plain, with the lakes of Neuchâtel and Morat and all which the borders of the Lake of Geneva inherit. The music of the cow’s bells (for their wealth, like the patriarch’s, is cattle) in the pastures, which reach to a height far above any mountains in Britain, and the shepherds shouting to us from crag to crag, and playing on their reeds, where the steeps appeared almost inaccessible, with the surrounding scenery, realized all that I have ever heard or imagined of a pastoral existence—much more so than Greece or Asia Minor, for there we have a little too much of the sabre and musket order, and if there is a crook in one hand, you are sure to see a gun in the other; but this was pure and unmixed—solitary, savage, and patriarchal. As we went they played the ‘Ranz de Vaches’ and other airs by way of farewell. I have lately re-peopled my mind with nature.” —*Byron’s Journal*.

The view from the Col (inferior to that from the Col de Pillon) commands

great part of the lake, but to see the Oberland range you must climb the *Dent* itself, 2 hrs. from the Col. From Vevay to the Col is 4 hrs. walk.]

The carriage-road from Montbovon to Vevay makes a very long *détour*: descending the valley of the Saane, and circling around the base of the *Molésan* (6181 ft.), the highest mountain in canton Freyburg, it passes under the hills crowned by the castle and town of

7 m. *Gruyères* (German, Greyerz)—Inns: not good. This dirty little mouldering town of 375 Inhab. is extremely picturesque from its position on the face of a hill, the top of which is crowned by the *Castle*, very commanding from its situation, and well preserved. Its owners, the Counts of Gruyères, were sovereigns of the surrounding district down to 1554, when the family became bankrupt, and the creditors seized and sold the lordship to Berne, so that the last descendant died in a strange land. The castle has been sold to M. Rory, who has repaired it with taste. The gloomy antiquity of the interior corresponds with the character of its watch-towers, battlements, and loop-holes as seen from without. The walls are 14 ft. thick, the halls vaulted and dimly lighted by small windows: in one is a fireplace at which oxen were roasted whole. The *torture* chamber at the top of the stairs contained the rack, which had been used within the present century to inflict punishment. The *Ch. of St. Théodule* (1254) contains a monument with marble effigies of a Count of Gruyères, in singular costume. The inhabitants of the town are a lazy set, many of them pensioners of a very rich *Hospital* here.

The language spoken by the people of the district, a dialect of the Romansch (called, in German, Gruverin-Welsch), is thought to prove their descent from the Burgundians. It is a subject worthy the attention of travellers. The district is also famous for its *cheeses*, and supplies from its rich pastures a great part of the



40,000 centners (cwt.) of cheese which canton Freyburg manufactures yearly, and which is chiefly exported under the name of Gruyère.

The watch-tower of La Tour de Treme was an outpost of the Counts of Gruyères.

3 m. *Bulle* (Boll)—(*Inns*: Cheval Blanc; Maison de Ville)—one of the most industrious towns in the canton. It contains 2000 Inhab., and is the chief depôt for the Gruyère cheese made in the valleys of the Saarine and of Charmey, and in the elevated plateau of which it is the centre. It is 2300 ft. above the level of the sea; and if the ages inscribed on the tombstones form any test, it must be one of the healthiest places in the world. There is an old chateau, but the town is modern, having been burnt in 1805. It is distant about 18 m. from Freyburg, and the same from Vevay. A diligence daily to Romont Stat. on the Rly. from Freyburg to Vevay.

[From Bulle or Gruyères may be made the ascent of the *Molésion* (6181 ft.), commanding a magnificent view.]

Our course now turns S. along the high road between these two places, skirting the W. base of the *Molésion* to 11 m. *Chutel St. Denis* (Kastels)—(*Inn*: Maison de Ville)—a picturesque village with an elevated castle on the l. bank of the *Veveyse*.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of it the road enters canton Vaud.

An excellent road, admirably engineered, carried by an easy descent in zigzags down the steep hill towards the beautiful lake *Leman*, conducts the traveller to

8 m. *Vevay* (Rte. 55). The view from this road is nearly as fine as from the *Jaman*, so that you have no reason to regret the enormous bends which it makes, though they lengthen the journey by several miles.

[A secluded route leads from Thun to Gruyère as follows: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. *Watterwyl*, 2 hrs. *Gurnigel*, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. *Schwefelbad*, 4 hrs. *Schwarz See* or *Lake of Omeiaz*, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. *Valsainte*, 3 hrs. *Gruyère*.

The Baths of *Gurnigel* (3782 ft.) are much frequented by the Bernese. The country is high and wooded. *Schwe-*

*felbad*, or Bath of *Ganterist*, is a decaying establishment in a treeless country. The lake of *Omeiaz* (3464 ft.) is deservedly called the *Schwartz See*. Hospitable quarters at a neglected bathing establishment on its W. shore. The surrounding landscape is charming. The *Valsainte* is a monastery in a smiling valley.]

## ROUTE 43.

### CHÂTEAU D'OEX TO AIGLE OR BEX, BY THE VALLEY DES ORMONDS.

A bridle-path (carriage-road in progress) diverges to the l. from the high road (Rte. 42) at *Moulins*, near *Château d'Oex*, and leads in 5 hrs. by *Combailaz* to *Sepey*, whence there is a good carriage-road, by a long incline of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  m., to *Aigle*.

The bridle-path mounts steeply for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. Thenceforward it is a char-road, and pretty level. In 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. our path turns off to the rt., and immediately crosses a stream by a bridge. [The road that is quitted leads through the *V. d'Etivaz*, whence easy mountain-paths lead into the *Ormond Dessus*.] Hence 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. by *Lecherette*, a scattered village on the rt. (where milk and wine can be had). It is skirted, not passed through. In  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. another stream is crossed; then 1 m. to *Les Mosses*, a straggling village on elevated meadows. [The elevated *Lac Lioson* is well worth a visit. Turning to the l. from *Les Mosses*, it may be reached in 1 hr. Ascend from it in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the *Chaussé* (7996 ft.), for the sake of its grand view over the *Diablerets*, *Dent du Midi*, and *Lac Leman*. Hence by a new road, and amidst pine-forests, rushing cascades,



valleys, and mountains, the traveller arrives at Sepey through the picturesque valley of Les Ormonds.] In  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. the road forks (the l. hand branch crosses the stream, and takes in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Plans des Isles [see below]); our way is to the rt., and leads in  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to *Comballaz*. A rustic but comfortable *Inn* and *Pension* (5000 ft.) (charge 5 fr. a day), much frequented in summer for its mountain air and sulphureous mineral spring of some celebrity. It is seldom free from snow before the end of June. There is not much view from the place, though many pretty excursions.

2 m. *Sepey* (*Inns*: l'Étoile (fair), H. des Alpes, pensions of a homely kind, moderate in their charges, as well as in accommodation, frequented by Swiss, from June to the end of August). It is a primitive town. The houses are entirely composed of wood; most of them are carved, and covered with verses and texts from the Bible.

The pasturages in this valley are celebrated, and the cheese, cream, and butter of Les Ormonds ("Ormond Dessus" above Sepey, and "Dessous" below it) equal any in the canton.

From Sepey or le Forclaz the ascent of the *Chamossaire* may be made, 6035 ft.—a recompensing *View*.

#### *Saanen to Sepey, by Col de Pillon.*

Sepey may also be conveniently reached from Rte. 42 by turning off at Saanen, and taking a char to

$8\frac{1}{2}$  m. *Gsteig* (in French, Châtelet). Thence a bridle-path over the *Col de Pillon* to a level tract in the valley of the *Ormond Dessus*,

$3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., called *Plan des Isles*, where there is a very favourite *Pension* and *Hotel*, H. des Diablerets. Opposite to it, S. of the Plan des Isles, opens out one of the grandest scenes in the Alps, the *Creux de Champ*, the head of the valley of Ormond Dessus. It is surrounded by a precipitous range of limestone-rocks, shaped like a horse-shoe; not unlike the Cirque of Gavarnie, in the Pyrenees, over which

dash 5 or 6 waterfalls, the sources of the Grande Eau, while above rise the snow and peaks of the Diablerets. This scene is well worth a visit.

Here the char-road begins. It is bad.

$1\frac{1}{2}$  m. *Vers l'Eglise* (*Pension* and *Inn*: Cerf, small but fair), thence

6 m. to Sepey, where the valley of Ormond Dessus falls into Ormond Dessous.

[By the *Col de la Croix* the traveller may descend by Grion to Bex, a stat. on the Rhone Rly.]

Sepey to *Aigle*,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. The descent is made in any kind of carriage in 1 hr., the ascent in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., by a road remarkable for its beauty of construction. It was commenced by the Vaudois Government in 1836, with the intention of connecting the Simplon with Thun, Interlaken, and the German cantons at Château d'Oex, but, owing to the enormous expense attending its formation, and the continual needful repairs, from snow and other causes, it has not been continued farther than Sepey. The road is wide, and its gradual and easy ascent around the sides of a seemingly impracticable mountain, to a height of nearly 3000 ft., reflects high credit on the engineer who superintended the work, M. Pichard, a Vaudois. At the bottom of the valley, beneath the feet of the traveller, rushes the Grande Eau in a continual series of torrents and cascades. In the distance, near Aigle, the snowy tops of the Dent du Midi glisten in contrast to the dark forests of the Ormonds; and the Dent du Chamossaire, to the N., rears its grey peak above the pasturages and châteaux that are everywhere scattered on the mountain-sides.

*Aigle* (*Inns*: Beau Site; H. du Midi; Victoria, very good), a stat. on the Simplon Rly., is the best starting-point for exploring the Valley des Ormonds. There are numerous paths among these mountains by which the route may be varied.

Half a day may be spent in a very pleasant trip from Sepey to Bex or Ollon, by crossing the Grande Eau on

the bridge 1 m. below Sepey, to the S.E., ascending the opposite slopes to the Forclaz, then to a pleasant cascade and the *Lake des Chavannes* (5876 ft.), 2½ hrs. (this little sheet of water is near 2 others of less note), and by fine forests. The chalets of Bretaye, immediately above it, afford cream and milk. The top of the *Pointe de Chamossaire* (6900 ft.) is well worth ascent, for its fine panorama. 1½ hr. descent from Bretaye leads to Chésières (4000 ft.), a village, where the chalet of the brothers Amiguet is always crowded by visitors, as well as the neighbouring *Chalet Villard*, in the face of the finest Alps of Savoy. 2 hrs. from Chésières will lead down to Bex.

## ROUTE 45.

BERNE TO LAUSANNE (AND VEVAY),  
BY FREIBURG (RAIL).

Stations.	Miles.
Bümplitz . . . . .	
Freiburg . . . . .	20
Romont. . . . .	
Oron . . . . .	
Chexbres (Vevay). . . . .	
Lausanne . . . . .	30

4 Trains daily to Freyburg in 1½ hr.  
—to Chexbres—Vevay in 3–3½ hrs.;  
to Lausanne in 3¼–4 hrs.

Quitting Berne Stat., the chain of

Bernese Alps and mountains of the Simmenthal appear.

Bümplitz Stat. The Sense, which divides canton Berne from Freyburg, and comes from Schwefelbad and Omeinaz Lake (Rte. 42), is crossed.

Flamatt Stat.

[Diligence twice a-day to 4 m. Laupen, by Neueneck (*Inn*, Hirsch), on the Sense. It is famous for the battle in which the Swiss confederates, under Rudolph of Erlach, defeated the mailed chivalry of Burgundy and Suabia, 1339. A tower, erected 1853, with a short inscription to commemorate the victory stands near the spot where the main battle raged.]

Tunnel beyond Flamatt Stat. Near Balliswyl is the *Great Viaduct* by which the Saarine is crossed. It is of cast-iron, 3000 tons being used in its construction: length between abutments, 1094 ft.; height above water, 259 ft.

On entering canton Freyburg the gauze wings and dark dress of the female peasantry of Berne are exchanged for broad-brimmed, flapping straw hats and red petticoats; while the numerous crosses at the roadside announce a Roman Catholic canton.

Skirting the old walls we soon reach

*Freyburg Stat.*, on the W. side of the town, near the Jesuits' College. Walk from this through the town and cross the *Suspension Bridge*, thence rt. to the bridge over the Gotteron, cross it and descending the valley, pass the Loretto chapel, whence the view is very pleasing, and re-enter the town near the Arsenal.

The appearance of Freyburg from the Berne road and the wire-bridge is singularly striking and picturesque. as the road, winding round the shoulder of the steep hill overlooking the valley of the Saarine, brings the traveller in view of the antique battlements and numerous towers, crowning the summit of a precipitous rock on the opposite side of the gorge. Near the top of the hill is seen a staring modern building, like a manufactory, with 5 stories and

many windows, once a Jesuits' Pensionnat and convent; next, the Gothic tower and church of St. Nicholas; beyond appears the suspension-bridge, linking together the two sides of the valley. Previous to its construction the only way of reaching the town from Berne was by descending the steep hill on the one side, by numerous circuitous zigzags to the water. The road then crossed the river 3 times by 3 different low bridges, after which it immediately ascended another slope equally steep. A diligence, or heavy carriage, performing this meandering and difficult route, required not much less than an hour to pass through the town; at present the traveller rolls luxuriously over this beautiful bridge, and in 2 minutes through a breach in the old houses, on the edge of the precipice, into the centre of the town.

**FREIBURG.**—(*Inns:* Zähringer Hof, close to the bridge, very good; B., 2 fr.; table-d'hôte at 12½, 3 fr.; at 5, 4 fr.; tea 1½ fr. View of the two bridges from the platform behind. H. des Merciers (Krämer), near the church, good and cheaper: H. de Freiburg, an especially good house and obliging landlord.)

Freiburg (10,560 Inhab., chiefly Rom. Cath.), the capital of canton Freyburg, is situated on a promontory formed by the windings of the Saarine (Saane). Many of the houses stand on the very edge of the precipice overhanging the river, and their quaint architecture, the long line of embattled walls stretching up hill and down dale, varied by the chain of feudal watch-towers, and gateways of the ancient fortifications which still exist in a perfect state, together with the singular and romantic features of the gorge of the Saarine, make the distant view of the town at once imposing and highly picturesque. The narrow dirty streets and mean buildings of the interior do not altogether correspond with these outward promises of interest.

Freiburg was founded in 1175, by Duke Berchthold of Zähringen, father  
[Switz.]

of him who founded Berne, and was long a free town. In 1343 it entered into alliance with Berne, but afterwards became subject to the Dukes of Savoy; but having again become free, was in 1481 admitted into the Swiss confederation.

*The Suspension Bridge*, the longest of a single curve in the world, was completed and thrown open in 1834—engineer M. Chaley, of Lyons. Its dimensions, compared with those of the Menai bridge, are as follows:—

	Length.	Elevation.	Breadth.
Freiburg . . . .	905 ft.	180 ft.	22 ft. 11 in.
Menai . . . . .	580	130	25

It is supported on 4 cables of iron wire, each containing 1056 wires, the united strength of which is capable of supporting 3 times the weight which the bridge will ever be likely to bear, or 3 times the weight of 2 rows of waggons, extending entirely across it. The cables enter the ground on each side obliquely for a considerable distance, and are then carried down vertical shafts cut in the rock, and filled with masonry, through which they pass, being attached at the extremity to enormous blocks of stone. The materials of which it is composed are almost exclusively Swiss; the iron came from Berne, the limestone masonry from the quarries of the Jura, the wood-work from the forests of Freiburg. It was completed between 1830 and 1838, at an expense of about 600,000 fr. (24,000*l.* sterling), and in 1834 was subjected to various severe trials to prove its strength. First, 15 pieces of artillery, drawn by 50 horses, and accompanied by 300 people, passed over it at one time, and were collected in as close a body as possible, first on the centre, and then at the two extremities, to try the effect of their concentrated weight. A depression of a metre (39½ inches) was thus produced in the part most weighed upon, but no sensible oscillation was occasioned. A few days after the bridge was opened by the bishop and authorities of the town accompanied by about 2000 persons,

who passed over it twice, in procession, preceded by a military band, and keeping step. Nothing is more remarkable in this beautiful structure than the combination of stability with such apparent fragility. The bridge does not contain one-tenth of the iron used in suspension bridges of English construction. It is well seen from the platform of the Zähringer Hof, from the old road below it, and from the gorge of Gotteron.

*Another Wire Bridge*, 640 feet long and 317 high, has been suspended across the romantic gorge of Gotteron, on the opposite side of the river Saarine. It was finished in 1840. It is not of such large dimensions as that built in 1834, but the wire cables are attached immediately to the solid rock on each side and the point of suspension is higher on one side than on the other, which gives it the appearance of half a bridge. The object of this mode of construction is economy, the expense of building piers of solid masonry from the bottom of the valley being saved.

The *Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas* is rather a handsome Gothic building, chiefly in the Flamboyant style (date 1285-1500). The exterior was carefully restored in 1856. The portal under the tower (date 1452) is surmounted by a bas-relief, representing the Last Judgment. In the centre stands St. Nicholas, and above him is seated the Saviour; on the l. hand an angel is weighing mankind in a huge pair of scales, not singly but by lots, and a pair of imps are maliciously endeavouring to pull down one scale, and make the other kick the beam; below is St. Peter, ushering the good into Paradise. On the rt. hand is the reverse of this picture—a devil, with a pig's head, is dragging after him, by a chain, a crowd of wicked, and carries a basket on his back, also filled with figures, apparently about to precipitate them into a vast cauldron suspended over a fire, which several other imps are stirring. In the cor-

ner is Hell, represented by the jaws of a monster, filled up to the teeth with evil-doers, and above it is Satan, seated on his throne.

The *Organ*, built by the late Aloys Moser, a native of the town, is one of the finest instruments in Europe. The organist is allowed to play on it for the gratification of travellers only at a fixed hour, 8½ P.M., except on certain feast days. Tickets are obtained at the hotels. His fee is 12 fr. for a party at any other time. The performance terminates with the imitation of a storm, introducing the howling of the wind, and the roaring of the thunder, interspersed with a few flashes of lightning from 'Der Freischütz.' The instrument has 64 stops and 7800 pipes, some of them 32 ft. long.

Down to 1847 canton Freiburg presented a remarkable instance of a state with a constitution purely democratic, in which the chief influence was exercised by the hierarchy. The town of Freiburg was a stronghold of the Roman Catholic priesthood: it is the see of a bishop, who still styles himself Bishop of Lausanne, although, since the Reformation, the canton Vaud is cut off from his diocese. It contained no less than 9 convents (5 for monks and 4 for nuns), 12 churches, and 10 chapels. The *Jesuits*, while interdicted from most other states of Europe, were here openly tolerated, having been recalled, in 1818, by a decree of the Grand Council of the canton.

The *Jesuits' Convent*, or college, was founded in 1584 by Father Canisius, who died in the odour of sanctity at the age of 77, and is interred in the Jesuits' church, awaiting the honours of canonisation, which have been, it is said, long promised to his remains. The college was suppressed by a decree of the Diet, 1847.

The *Pensionnat*, or Jesuits' School, the most conspicuous building in the town, was destined for the reception of about 400 pupils, many of them

children of the Roman Catholic noblesse of France and Germany, who were sent hither for their education. The School and Convent have been turned into a Cantonal school since 1848.

Among the curiosities of Freiburg is the ancient trunk of a *Lime-tree*, planted, according to tradition, on the day of the battle of Morat, in 1476. The story relates that a young Freiburgois, who had fought in the battle, anxious to bring home the good news, ran the whole way, and arrived on this spot, bleeding, out of breath, and so exhausted by fatigue, that he fell down, and had barely time to cry "Victory!" when he expired. The branch of lime which he carried in his hand was immediately planted, and grew into the tree, of which this decayed trunk, 20 ft. in circumference, is the remains. Its branches are supported by stone pillars.

In the Place N. Dame is a bronze statue of Père Gregoire Girard (1765-1850), "qui a bien mérité de la patrie."

Near to it is the ancient *Rathhaus*, a building of no consequence, but standing on the site of the Duke of Zähringen's castle.

A long flight of steps leads from this down to the lower town and river side: it is called the *Rue Court Chemin*, and the roofs of some of its houses serve as pavement for the street above it, called *Rue Grande Fontaine*.

The canton Freiburg is singularly divided between the German and French languages; and the line of separation, extending from the S.E. corner to the N.W., passes through the town of Freiburg, so that in the upper town French is spoken, and in the lower German. This distinction, however, is wearing out.

The walls and gates of the town are perfect specimens of ancient fortification, and contribute, along with the general air of antiquity, to carry back the spectator to a remote state of

society. One tower, near the Préfecture (thrown across the street, and now converted into a prison), has acquired the name of *La Mauvaise Tour*, because it contained the rack. Though the torture had been disused in the canton for many years, it was not legally abolished until 1830!

About 3 m. lower down the valley of the Saarine is the *Grotto of St. Magdalene*, a hermitage and chapel cut out of the sandstone rock, by a native of Gruyères named Dupré, between 1670 and 1680. Its wonders have been exaggerated by the guide-books, and it is scarce worth a visit.

*Diligences* twice daily to Morat, about 10 m. (Rte. 46), corresponding with the steamer to Neuchâtel, to Bulle and Payerne.

On quitting Freiburg Stat., the train overlooks (1.) the deep valley of the Saarine, and the Mont Moléson. 1. See the Nunnery of La Fille Dieu, on nearing

*Romont Stat.* (*Inns*: Cerf; Couronne), picturesquely seated on a hill above the Glane. The *Castle* was founded by the Kings of Burgundy in the 10th centy., and has a round *Tower* of solid masonry of that age worth notice. Soon after leaving Romont, a glimpse of Mont Blanc may be gained, and, beyond

Vanderens Stat., of the Jura range.

*Rue* (*Inns*: H. de Ville; Fleur de Lys) is a picturesque town, with castle, in the vale of the Broye.

*Oron le Châtelet Stat.*

*Chexbres Stat.* This is the station for Vevay.

[*Omnibuses*, to and from every train; fare 1 fr., luggage extra; a drive of rather more than 1 hr. The return (ascent) takes longer. Fine views.]

On emerging from the rly. tunnel beyond Chexbres, a *magnificent view*. The Lake of Geneva, Valley of Rhone, Dent de Jaman, and other mountains beyond.

Grand Vant Stat.

La Conversion Stat., near the vil-  
lage Lutry.

A long viaduct of 9 arches next  
carries the line over a valley through  
which runs the viaduct of the Geneva  
and Lausanne Rly. (W. of Switz-  
erland). The 2 lines unite before  
entering

Lausanne Junct. Stat. (in Rte. 55).

ROUTE 46.

BERNE TO LAUSANNE, BY MORAT AND  
AVENCHES (AVENTICUM).

Post road. 6½ posts = 56½ Eng. m.

	Posts.	Eng. m.
Berne.		
Gümlingen . . .	1½	= 11½
Morat . . . .	4	= 6½
Payerne . . . .	1½	= 11½
Lausanne . . . .	3	= 27

The most expeditious route from  
Berne to Lausanne is by rly. (Rte.  
45). Those who enjoy driving through  
a fine fruitful country, with much  
pleasing hill scenery, and several ob-  
jects of interest on the way, may ad-  
here to the old carriage-road, and will  
find it agreeable to break the journey  
by sleeping at Payerne. Diligence to  
Morat in 3 hrs.

Soon after leaving Berne a distant  
view of the Alps is obtained on the l.  
The Saarine is crossed by a covered  
Bridge at

Gümlingen, and a little farther on the  
road enters Canton Freyburg.

Morat — Germ. Murten — (*Inns*:  
Couronne; Croix Blanche)—a thriv-  
ing town of 2300 Inhab., prettily  
situated on the E. shore of the lake  
of Morat, on the high road from  
Berne, Basle, and Soleure, to Lau-  
sanne. Its picturesque and arcaded  
streets are overlooked by an old  
Castle; and it is still surrounded by  
feudal walls and watchtowers—the  
same which, for 10 days, withstood  
the artillery of Charles the Bold.  
In the *Gymnasium* is a collection of  
old arms, guns, and other relics of  
the fight.

“There is a spot should not be pass’d in vain—  
Morat! the proud, the patriot field! Where  
man  
May gaze on ghastly trophies of the slain,  
Nor blush for those who conquer’d on that  
plain.  
Here Burgundy bequeathed his tombless host.  
A bony heap through ages to remain;  
Themselves their monument.” *Byron.*

The battle of 1476, which has rendered this otherwise insignificant town famous all over the world, was fought under its walls. The Swiss were drawn up along the heights a little to the S.W., and nothing could resist their impetuous charge. The loss of the Burgundians was immense: 15,000 dead bodies were left on the field, and thousands perished in the lake. The bodies of the slain were collected by the Swiss in an Ossuary, which, after standing 300 years, was destroyed in 1798 by the soldiers of the Burgundian Legion in the Revolutionary French army, anxious to efface this record of their ancestors' disgrace and defeat. The ringleaders were the band of the 75th half-brigade.

It should, however, be recollected that the Swiss were not here defending their own country, but were invading the territories of the Duke of Savoy, of which the present Pays de Vaud then formed part, because the nobles there had taken the part of the Duke of Burgundy, and that the war with Charles of Burgundy had been partly occasioned by the intrigues and bribery of Louis XI.

Byron, who visited the spot in 1816, says—"A few bones still remain, notwithstanding the pains taken by the Burgundians for ages (all who passed that way removing a bone to their own country), and the less justifiable larcenies of the Swiss postilions, who carried them off to sell for knife-handles—a purpose for which the whiteness, imbibed by the bleaching of years, had rendered them in great request. Of those relics I ventured to bring away as much as may have made a quarter of a hero, for which the sole excuse is, that, if I had not, the next passer-by might have perverted them to worse uses than the careful preservation which I intended for them."—Byron.

Since Byron visited the spot, the scattered remains have been collected and buried, and an *Obelisk* was set up over them (in 1822), by the canton, at the road-side, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Morat, on the site of the bone-

house. The inscription belonging to it, and one or two cannon, made of iron hoops, used in the battle, are still preserved in the *Town-house* of Morat.

The best view of the battle-field and lake is from the hill of *Münchwyler*, near an enormous lime-tree, 36 ft. in circumference, and 90 ft. high, still in full vigour and luxuriant foliage: it is probably at least 600 years old, since, according to tradition, the Swiss held a council of war before the battle under its shade. According to Ebel, the tree is 36 ft. in diameter; and the American, Cooper, in consequence, took a long walk up the hill, under a hot sun, to see it. "There we went, dragging our weary limbs after us, to discover that for 'diamètre' we ought to have read 'circonférence.' I wish the erratum had been in his book instead of mine."

The lake of Morat is about 5 m. long and 3 broad: it is separated by a narrow flat tract of land from the lake of Neuchâtel, but empties itself into it through the river Broye. Steamer by it to Neuchâtel.

[About 5 m. beyond Morat is Avenches — Germ. Wiflisburg — (*Inns*: Couronne; Hôtel de Ville), an ancient walled town of 1750 Inhab., situated in the S.W. angle of the area once occupied by *Aventicum*, the Roman capital of Helvetia. It appears to have existed before the time of Cæsar. it attained the height of its prosperity, and a population of 60,000 souls, in the reign of Vespasian and Titus; and it was destroyed, first by the Alemanni, and afterwards by Attila. The ancient walls may be traced for nearly 4 m., in some places 14 ft. thick and 15 ft. high; they extended down to the lake, where they formed a small mole and harbour. The modern town fills but one-tenth of the space they enclosed—the rest is meadow-land or corn-field. About a mile before reaching Avenches the road from Morat is carried through a breach in these ancient fortifications. On the l. is seen a tower, which, though ruined, is the most perfect of the Roman edifices here. They owe



their total destruction to their massy masonry having been for ages regarded as a quarry out of which the neighbouring houses and villages have been built. Close to the modern town, on the l. of the road, a solitary Corinthian column, 37 ft. high, is still standing, and has, for a long time, served the storks as a pedestal to build their nests on, whence it is called the Cigognier.

"By a lone wall, a lonelier column rears  
A grey and grief-worn aspect of old days :  
'Tis the last remnant of the wreck of years,  
And looks as with the wild bewildered gaze  
Of one to stone converted by amaze,  
Yet still with consciousness ; and there it  
stands,  
Making a marvel that it not decays,  
When the coeval pride of human hands,  
Levell'd Aventicum, hath strew'd her subject  
lands."

Other traces of fallen splendour, such as the line of city walls, broken cornices, inscriptions, distinct remains of an *amphitheatre*, and fragments of an aqueduct, exist, and are interesting evidence of the extent of the largest Roman colony in Helvetia.

Tacitus has recorded the history of Julius Alpinus, the chief man of the city, who was condemned to death for aiding and abetting an insurrection against the Roman Emp. Vitellius, in ignorance of the murder of his rival Galba (A.D. 69).

1500 years after this event an Inscription was reported to have been found here, bearing these words:—"Julia Alpinula: Hic Jaceo. Infelicis patris infelix proles. Deæ Aventiæ Sacerdos. Exorare patris necem non potui: Male mori in fatis illi erat. Vixi annos xxiii. (I, Julia Alpinula, lie here—unfortunate child of an unfortunate parent, priestess of the Goddess Aventia. I failed in averting, by my prayers, the death of my father: the Fates had decreed that he should die ignominiously. I lived to the age of 23.)" Byron says—"I know of no human composition so affecting as this, nor a history of deeper interest. These are the names and actions which ought not to perish, and to which we turn with a true and healthy tenderness, from the wretched and

glittering detail of a confused mass of conquests and battles, with which the mind is roused for a time to a false and feverish sympathy, from whence it recurs at length with all the nausea consequent on such intoxication."

"... oh! sweet and sacred be the name!—  
Julia—the daughter, the devoted—gave  
Her youth to Heaven; her heart, beneath a  
claim  
Nearest to Heaven's, broke o'er a father's  
grave.  
Justice is sworn 'gainst tears, and hers would  
crave  
The life she lived in; but the judge was just,  
And then she died on him she could not  
save.  
Their tomb was simple, and without a bust,  
And held within one urn one mind, one  
heart, one dust."

The critical acuteness of Lord Mahon has destroyed the romance of this story by proving incontestably that the above pathetic epitaph, the cause of such poetic sympathy, is a *forgery* of the 17th century,\* and that no such person as Julia Alpinula ever existed.

The *feudal Castle* was built by a Count Wivilo, in the 7th century, whence Wiflisburg, the German name of Avenches. The country here is interesting by the richness of the cultivation, the beauty of the fruit-trees, and the comfort apparently enjoyed by the population.

At *Domdidier*, 2 m. from Avenches, a road strikes off on the rt. to Freiburg (Rte. 45).]

*Payerne* — German *Peterlingen* — (*Inns*: Bär, is newer, but not better than the Hôtel de Ville). There are two churches in this walled town—the one, now turned into a *Halle à Blé*, is in the Romanesque style, and very ancient. Bertha Queen of Burgundy, the founder of it and of the adjoining convent (suppressed since the Reformation, and now a school), was buried in it. The curiosity of the place is Queen Bertha's Saddle, a cumbrous machine kept in the parish church, from which it appears that, in her days, it was the fashion for ladies to ride *en cavalier*; but Bertha spun as she rode, having a distaff

\* See 'Quarterly Review,' June, 1846.

planted on the pummel. In the same church is Bertha's tomb, an antique sarcophagus discovered 1818, now covered with a slab of black marble.

A carriage-road runs from Payerne by Estavayer to Yverdon, partly near the lake of Neuchâtel. That to Lausanne ascends the valley of the Broye, passing Henniez, to

Lucens (Lobsingen), with a castle, formerly a hunting-seat of the Bishop of Lausanne.

From Lucens the high-road leads to

Moudon—Germ. *Milden*—(Inn: H. Victoria, not good.) This town (1500 Inhab.) was the Roman *Minidunum*, hence its modern name. A Gothic church, recalling the Cathedral of Lausanne, is worth notice.

[At the village of Carouge, a road turns off on the l. to Vevay.]

The stage from Moudon to Lausanne, about 15 m., consists of nearly 7 of long and incessant ascent, and 5 of descent. Extra horses (Renfort) are required for the first. From the summit and S. slope of the *Jorat*, for that is the name of the hill, a beautiful view expands over the *Leman Lake*; and in clear weather the snows of Mont Blanc and the high Alps border the horizon.

It is a drive of 3 hrs. from Moudon to

LAUSANNE (Rte. 55).

## ROUTE 48.

BERNE TO NEUCHÂTEL AND LAUSANNE.

3½ posts = 31 Eng. m.

	Posts.	Eng. m.
Berne.		
Aarberg . . .	1½	= 12
Anet . . .	1	= 9
Neuchâtel . . .	1½	= 10

Neuchâtel may be reached from Berne:—*a.* By rly. direct to Bienne, 2½ or 3 hrs. (Rte. 1); thence by rly. to Neuchâtel (but there is delay owing to the trains not corresponding). *b.* By rail to Freiburg, and diligence thence to Estavayer, on the Lake, which is crossed by steamer to Neuchâtel. *c.* By Morat and lake steamer, Rte. 19. *d.* By the *Post-road* diligences travel daily in 5½ hrs.

The road passes by *Seedorf*, a village named from the pretty little lake, to

*Aarberg* (Inn: Krone) on the Aar; an old castle, at times surrounded by the river. Near the ch. is the old palace of the Counts of A., who sold the town to Berne, 1351. 3 m. higher up the river is *Lyss Stat.* on the rly. from Berne to Bienne.

The road to Neuchâtel is carried through *Siselen* and

*Anet*, or *Ins* (Inn: Bär), a village on an eminence, from which the Alps are well seen in clear weather, with the lakes of Morat and Neuchâtel near at hand. The lake of Bienne lies about 3 m. to the N. of this place. You overlook from this the *Aarberger moor*, a tract of morass, 9 m. long by 6 m. wide, which has never been drained, owing to the great cost of embanking. *Bretiège* (Bratteln) is a watering-place at the foot of hills 2½ m. N. of Anet. An exceller

road from Anet to Morat opens a ready communication between Neuchâtel and Freiburg. Skirting the hill of Jolimont, we cross the river *Thiele*, or *Zühl*, through which the waters of the lake of Neuchâtel are discharged into that of Bienne. It forms the boundary-line of cantons Berne and Neuchâtel. The Castle, close to the bridge, is now a prison. A road runs from this to *Erlach* (Cerlier), a town of 1000 Inhab., on a spur of the *Jolimont*, which projects into the lake like a wall or causeway, nearly as far as Rousseau's Island. The castle of Erlach was the cradle of the noble family of that name: among its members was Rudolph, the hero of Laupen in 1339.

The Rlwy. from Bienne to Neuchâtel is reached near St. Blaize Stat. on the margin of the lake of Neuchâtel, [Préfarger, near St. Blaize, is a lunatic asylum for 130 patients, with extensive grounds. The highest class pays 5 fr. daily for food; the 2nd class pay 2 fr.; and Neuchâtelois only 75 c. At Montmirail is a Moravian institution for educating young ladies.] The road continues along the lake at the foot of the Chaumont, as far as

NEUCHÂTEL Stat., high up above the lake (Germ. Neuenburg)—(Inns: Hôtel Bellevue, a large building close to the lake, the best: Br. from 1 fr. 50 c. upwards; D. at 1, 3 fr.; at 4, 5 fr.: pension, summer and winter. Faucon. H. des Alpes, at the waterside, good. H. de Commerce, or Ancre. H. du Lac, clean), the chief town of the canton (10,537 Inhab. Prot.), is built upon the steep slope of the Jura mountains, and along a narrow shelf of alluvial deposits brought down by the river Seyon, gained by embankments from the water, and by turning the river into a tunnel cut for 500 ft. through the rock. Several streets have been built on the land thus acquired. Except as the threshold of Switzerland, it has little to interest the passing traveller: it has but little trade, and not much activity, except on market-days. Still, to one newly arrived in the country, the first, and,

under all circumstances, glorious view of the Alps from the heights of the Jura above the town, and occasionally from the upper windows of the hôtels, must appear magnificent; and should the sky be clear, Neuchâtel, with its picturesque old castle, its numerous white country-houses, its vine-clad hills, and its blue expanse of lake, will be pronounced beautiful.

The French princes of the house of Châlons (Longueville) were, at least nominally, the sovereigns of this little state: though the subjects maintained jealously their privileges and liberties, allowing their princes but very limited authority. When the house of Châlons became extinct in 1707, the King of Prussia was chosen, as the nearest descendant by the female line of the former lords of Neuchâtel, to be sovereign or stadtholder. The sovereignty of the house of Brandenburg was interrupted by Napoleon, who made Marshal Berthier Prince of Neuchâtel, but was resumed in 1815, and continued until lately. Though long an ally of the Swiss cantons, Neuchâtel was not formally incorporated as a member of the Confederation until 1814. There was a great struggle in 1848 between the aristocratic and the democratic parties, the latter assisted occasionally by French sympathisers from across the frontier. The constitution, as settled in 1848, is upon the regular French republican model. In 1856 this affair was finally settled under the mediation of the great powers, and the King of Prussia renounced his rights and title.

The *Old Castle* on the height, now converted into government offices, was originally the residence of the French princes.

The *Church*, adjoining the castle, is a Gothic building of the 12th century: but the E. end, in the round style, is older. Within the chancel is a Gothic monument, including 15 life-sized effigies, erected 1372 by one of the Counts of Neuchâtel; there is also a monument to Farel, the reformer, who was buried on the terrace in front,

but the situation of his grave is unknown. There is a pleasing view from this terrace.

In the Palais Rougemont, or *Musée*, N.E. of the town, is the *Picture Gallery*, containing some very good productions of modern artists, chiefly native of French Switzerland, as : — *Calame's* Monte Rosa, Rosenlani, &c.; *Ch. Girardet*, Lady Claypole, and Cromwell; *Tschaggany*, a Flemish bridal procession; *Leopold Robert* (a native of Chaux-de-Fonds), *Ch. of St. Paul* at Rome after the Fire, Roman Oxen, also portraits of Frederick the Great and other Prussian sovereigns.

The *Gymnasium*, a handsome building near the lake, erected by the town, as a public school, contains a very interesting *Museum of Natural History*, including good collections in zoology, conchology, and geology. The specimens of rocks and fossils illustrating the structure of the Jura mountains are very complete and instructive. This institution owes much to the zeal and talents of Professor Agassiz, a native of Orbe in Vaud, whose discoveries in the history of fossil fishes have thrown so much light on that branch of study. The town has also built a *Ladies' School* (1853), where a good cheap education is given to girls. The *Public Library* contains 30,000 vols., and among the MSS. 2000 letters written by J. J. Rousseau, 1760-1770.

A fine view from the *Observatory*,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. N.E. of Neuchâtel. *Swimming-bath* in the lake, E. of the Bellevue H.

The charitable institutions of this town, for which it is indebted to its own citizens, are on a very splendid scale. In 1786 one David Pury left his whole fortune of 4,000,000 of livres (166,000*l.*) to endow an hospital and poorhouse, and for other purposes connected with the improvement of his native town. He had quitted it a poor lad, without money or friends, had gradually, by industry and talent for business, increased his means, becoming, in turn, jeweller,

owner of mines, banker, and, finally, millionaire, at Lisbon, where he died. His *statue* has been set up in front of the Gymnasium by his fellow citizens.

The *Hospital Pourtales* is a similar monument of the benevolence and public spirit of a townsman. It is open to people of all religions and countries alike.

Several of the richest bankers, merchants, &c., in France, are Neuchâtelais by origin.

*English Church Service* twice on Sundays at the Oratoire des Bercles.

Those who would enjoy one of the finest distant views of the Alps, with the lakes of Neuchâtel, Morat, and Bienne in the foreground, and the long range of the Jura on the N., should ascend to the *summit of the Chaumont*, the hill immediately above Neuchâtel. It is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour's walk, and a good carriage road leads thither in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour. It is 3580 feet above the sea-level. The view comprehends the whole array of Alps, from the Titlis to Mont Blanc, and is said to be finer even than that from the Weissenstein. It must, however, be borne in mind, that the atmosphere is seldom perfectly clear. *Inn* on the top, H. du Chateau, charges moderate. A good hotel : 100 beds; reading-room, &c.

On the slope of the hill, about 2 m. above the town, lies the largest boulder-stone known on the Jura; it is called *Pierre à Bot* (toad-stone), and is situated in a wood, near a farmhouse; it is 62 feet long by 48 broad, and is calculated to contain 14,000 cubic feet. It is of granite, similar to that of the Great St. Bernard, from which part of the Alps it probably came, as there is no similar rock nearer at hand; yet it exhibits no symptoms of attrition, all its angles being perfectly sharp. The entire S. slope of the Jura, a limestone formation, is strewn with these granite blocks, which, from the nature of the stone, must have all been derived from the high Alps. Their presence in this spot was long a mystery, but is now pretty generally attributed to the operation of enormous glaciers

covering a large portion of Switzerland and carrying these blocks on their surface, or else to the operation of floating icebergs operating as rafts on a great lake or inland sea.

\*Those who dislike so long a walk may enjoy extensive and beautiful views of the Bernese Alps and Mont Blanc from the Noiraigue Stat. of the Pontarlier Rly. (Rte. 51), or from the Hautes-Geneveyes stat. of the Chaux-de-Fonds Rly. (Rte. 50).

The *Gorge of the Seyon*, immediately behind Neuchâtel, is a singular scene, and those who find little to amuse them in the town will not repent a walk to explore it, though its recesses are only to be reached by scrambling and climbing. It is a deep narrow fissure, cleaving the centre of the chain of the Jura, and allowing the river Seyon to escape from the Val de Ruz into the lake of Neuchâtel. The section it presents of the strata of the Jura limestone will prove particularly instructive to the geologist. In one spot they may be observed curved and fractured, probably by the upheaving force from below, which first broke this crevice in the mountain. Though in winter a furious torrent sweeping everything before it, it is reduced in summer to a noisome dribble of water, exhaling unwholesome effluvia. A tunnel, *de la Troué du Seyon*, has, in consequence, been made through the rock at the bend before alluded to, for the purpose of carrying its waters entirely clear of the town into the lake, at a considerable distance S. of its former outlet. This public work was executed out of the Pury fund without levying any imposts on the townsfolk.

The principal produce of the canton is *wine*; the best sorts resemble *ordinaire* Burgundy. The red wines of Cortailod and Derrière Moulins, and the white grown between Auvornier and St. Blaise, are most in repute; they are agreeable as sparkling wines.

The chief *manufacture* is that of watches and clocks, of which nearly a million are exported annually: the central seats of it may be said to be

the valley of Chaux de Fonds and Locle (Rte. 50); but much is done in the town of Neuchâtel, in Sonvillier, Sonceboz, and the large villages of the Val St. Imier; Sonvillier making 60,000 watches yearly, and St. Imier a still larger number. Most of the watches sold at Geneva are made in the canton of Neuchâtel; the dealers at Geneva contracting for all the good ones, and leaving the bad.

*Railways* to Locle and Chaux de Fonds;—to Paris, by Pontarlier and Dijon (Rte. 51) (this is the most direct and the shortest route from Paris to Switzerland);—to Yverdon, Lausanne, and Geneva;—to Bienne, Basle, and Lucerne. So that it is brought into easy and rapid communication with all the great towns in Switzerland. The station is on a height above the town, and may be reached by shady by-paths.

*Steamers* cross the lake from Neuchâtel to Morat and Estavayer, on the way to Freyburg and Berne.

## ROUTE 49.

BIENNE TO YVERDUN AND LAUSANNE,  
BY THE LAKES OF BIENNE AND NEUCHÂTEL.—RAILWAY.

Bienne to Neuchâtel, 18 m., Rly.  
1½ h.

Neuchâtel to Yverdun, 23 m.  
Rly. 1½ h.

Yverdun to Lausanne, 26½ m. Rly.  
1½ hr.

*Bienne* is described in Rte. 3.

The rly. to Neuchâtel passes near *Nydau*, a village on the borders of the lake, with a picturesque castle, flanked by round towers and surmounted by a tall square keep. The lords of Nydau, an extinct branch of the former lords of Neuchâtel, were foes of Berne; their stronghold now bears on its front the Bernese bear, painted of colossal dimensions, and is converted into the cantonal salt-warehouse. From the slope of the hill near Belmont a good view is obtained of the lake and of St. Peter's Isle. rt., near a fir-wood, rises an obelisk, by way of monument to the Swiss who fell here doing battle against the French 1798.

The Zihl (Thiele), which drains the lake of Bienne, passes near Nidau.

Since the opening of the railway steamers have ceased to navigate the lake of Bienne. The trains run along its W. bank and command a fine view of it: but the Jura chain is hid.

6 m. Twann Stat. (*Inn*, Bear). Row boats may be had here to visit the island.

The *Lake of Bienne* (German *Bieler See*) is about 10 m. long, and nearly 3 broad. It is 8 feet lower than the lake of Neuchâtel, whose waters it receives at its S. extremity by the Thiele, discharging them again at the N.E. corner, through a continuation of the same river. Its banks are neither bold nor striking, but it possesses much quiet beauty of scenery,

although it owes its celebrity chiefly to Rousseau's residence on it, and to his somewhat extravagant praises. [The *Isle St. Pierre*, on which he took refuge for 2 months, in 1765, after his proscription at Paris, and his pretended stoning at Motiers (Rte. 51), is situated about 6 m. from Bienne. Boats may be hired at almost all the villages on the lake to row to it. Carriages may be sent on from Bienne to Gleresse, a village opposite the island, to wait. The island, a pretty object, is a ridge of sandstone, rising 12 ft. above the lake, and prolonged southwards, under water, to the hill called Jolimont. It is crowned by a grove of magnificent old oaks, the shade of which in summer is most refreshing.

Rousseau's room is preserved nearly as he left it, except that its walls, doors, shutters, and windows are scribbled over with names of all nations. To escape the importunities of curious visitors he used to climb up by a stove, through a trap-door (still shown) into the garret, and frequently, when informed by his host that a party had come expressly to see him, refused to appear—"Je ne suis pas ici dans une ménagerie."]

The most extensive peat-moss in Switzerland lies on the S.E. shore of the lake of Bienne. The Gothic abbey of St. Jean is now a manufactory, where the peat is condensed and transmuted into benzine oil, petroleum, and pigments. An ancient lacustrine village has been dug out of the peat, 1000 ft. from the present shore.

4 m. *Neuveville Stat.* (Germ. *Neuchstadt*) (*Inns*: Couronne, or Pension Grether, out of the town on the S. side, surrounded by as much shade as the vineyards will afford), a thriving little town of 1200 Inhab. (here French is spoken), on the edge of the lake, at the foot of the Chasseral, whose summit (4955 ft.) may be reached in 4 hrs.; by carriage-road to the village of Nodz 3 hrs., path thence to summit 1 hr.

On the opposite side of the lake, near its S. extremity, stands *Erlach*



(Cerlier), at the foot of the *Jolimont*, a hill of sandstone, which sends out the spur prolonged into the Isle St. Pierre, producing shallows covered with reeds stretching into the lake. This hill is remarkable for the number of snakes to be found upon it.

*Landeron Stat.* is the picturesque old Swiss town near the mouth of the very shallow river *Thiele*, or *Zühl*, through which the waters of the lake of Neuchâtel find their way into the lake of Bienne. After passing under a wooden bridge and then under an ancient stone bridge, close to which is the castle of Thiele, the river becomes exceedingly narrow and crooked, and difficult to navigate.

The lake of Neuchâtel is about 25 m. long and 7 m. wide; 475 ft. deep, and 1420 ft. above the sea: the lake of Bienne is 3 ft. lower. The Jura mountains form one side of the lake, the other side is comparatively flat; and the scenery, though not unpleasing, is tame.

Emerging from a tunnel the train reaches

*St. Blaise Stat.* The line continues to rise until it overlooks the whole lake.

#### NEUCHÂTEL JUNCT. STAT. (Rte. 48).

The *Swiss Western Railway*. Trains to Lausanne in  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. At first our line runs side by side with that to Pontarlier; about a mile from Neuchâtel the railroad crosses the glen of Serrières by a lofty viaduct. At the bottom of the gorge runs the road, over a handsome stone bridge built by Marshal Berthier. Near it is a little hamlet, composed of a group of water-mills, turned by a remarkable stream, rising in the head of the dell and falling into the lake, after a course of not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile. Though it remains, as it were, but a few minutes above ground, it rises in sufficient force and volume to turn a wheel within 200 yards of its source, and subsequently sets in motion several others, both above and below the bridge. It is fed from reservoirs within the mountain, and is probably to be identified with

some of those singular streams which bury themselves in various places among the cavernous range of the Jura.

The rly. descends towards

*Auvernier Junct. Stat.*, where that to Pontarlier turns rt. Our line also quits the lake to rejoin it beyond Bevaix.

[About 3 m. farther is Columbier, once the seat of the Scotch Marshal Keith, the friend and general of Frederick the Great; he was governor of Neuchâtel. Cortaillod, by the water-side, produces one of the best wines in the canton. The village Boudri, on the Reuse, was the birth-place (1764) of the demagogue Marat.]

*Bevaix Stat.*

*Gorgier St. Aubin Stat.* From this the ascent of the Creux du Vent (Rte. 51) may be made. rt. is the well-preserved castle of *Vaumarcus*, beyond which the canton de Vaud is entered.

Rly. crosses part of lake on an embankment.

*Concise Stat.* (*Inn*: Ecu de France). More than 800 stone axes, chisels, and other tools were dredged up from the lake near this in 1861.

Near Corcelles, at the road-side stand 3 upright blocks of granite 8 to 10 ft. high, by some supposed to have been raised by the Swiss as a memorial of the victory of Grandson, but more probably of Druidic origin.

*Grandson Stat.*—(*Inn*: Lion d'Or)—a town of 890 Inhab. The rly. passes through the enclosure of the venerable *Castle*, now converted into a snuff-manufactory, on an eminence above the lake. It is historically remarkable because before the battle of Grandson it resisted for 10 days the assaults and artillery of the Burgundian army. When at length the garrison, reduced by famine and invited by the offer of free pardon, by a spy or deserter who had entered the castle by stealth, surrendered it, Charles caused them to be stripped and hung by hundreds on the surrounding trees, and as many more to be drowned in the lake. But



two days after, on the 3rd of March, 1476, he experienced the vengeance of the Swiss, in the memorable defeat of his host, 50,000 strong, by the army of the confederates, amounting to not much more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of that number; and was himself compelled to fly for his life across the mountains, with only 5 followers. The spoil of his camp, which fell into the hands of the victors, included 120 pieces of cannon, 600 standards, all his jewels and regalia, costly hangings, and military chest; on that day gold and diamonds were dealt out to the Swiss by handfuls. In this battle, however, as in those of Morat and Nancy, the Swiss were invading the then territories of the Dukes of Savoy or of Burgundy. The scene of the battle lay between Concise and Corcelles; but the final rout of the Burgundians was at the little river between the battlefield and Grandson.

The *Church* of Grandson is of 10th or 11th centy. The prior's stall of wood is worth notice. Farel preached the reformed doctrines from its pulpit. There is a path over the hills from Grandson to Motiers Traversa.

The rly. skirts the lake and crosses the Thiele.

*Yverdon Stat.* (Ger. *Ifferten*)—(*Inns*: H. de Londres; Croix Fédérale), a town of 5029 Inhab., at the S. extremity of the lake of Neuchâtel, at the spot where the Orbe (thenceforth called Thiele) falls into it. It is built upon the site of the Roman *Ebrodunum*, whose name, with a little change, it still inherits.

The *Castle*, built in the 12th century by Conrad of Zähringen, is in the middle of the town, and is modernised and uninteresting. It became the school-house and residence of Pestalozzi, from 1805 to 1825. Although the founder of a system of education, and of many schools both in Europe and America, he was a very bad practical schoolmaster himself; and this establishment, the headquarters as it were of his system, turned out a signal failure.

There are some pretty promenades

by the side of the lake, and the town is sufficiently picturesque.

A very delightful excursion may be made from this up to the *Lac de Joux* (Rte. 52).

*Diligence* to Ste. Croix, noted for the manufacture of musical boxes (50,000 in a year).

From Yverdon the rly. proceeds through a fertile and thriving country, along the valley of the Thiele, with fine views of the Jura range to the W., and often a view of snow-peaks to the S. and E. Before coming to *Chavornay Stat.* the fine castle of *Champmont* will be observed on the rt. [From *Chavornay Stat.* branch rail to *Orbe* (Rte. 52).] Soon after this the rly. passes by two short tunnels through the low range of hills which separates the valley of the Thiele, or Orbe, from that of the *Venoge*, and descends the valley of the *Venoge*. The ch. of *Cossonay* is prettily situated on a height, and the rly. passes through a fine country to

*Bussigny Junc. Stat.*, whence one branch of the rly. goes to *Morges* and *Geneva* (Rte. 53), the other through some green and pleasant valleys, without any extensive view, to

LAUSANNE JUNCT. STAT. (Rte. 55).

## ROUTE 50.

NEUCHÂTEL TO CHAUX DE FONDS  
AND LE LOCLE.

About 20 m. *Railway* by La Chaux de Fonds to Le Locle in about 3 hrs.

*Diligence* from Neuchâtel to Le Locle by Les Ponts.

[The high-road to Chaux de Fonds runs directly through the profound chasm of the Seyon (Rte. 48).

*Vallengin* — (*Inn*: Couronne) — is the principal place in the fertile Val de Ruz—430 Inhab. Its *Castle* (now a prison) is in part as old as the 12th century: its base is washed by the Seyon. The *Church*, a perfectly regular Gothic structure, was built by a Count of Vallengin, on his return from the crusades, in consequence of a vow made to the Virgin in a storm at sea that he would build a church upon the water; accordingly the stream of the valley is conducted under the building.

A steep and long ascent up the Tête de Rang leads to Hauts Geneveys.]

On quitting Neuchâtel Stat. the rly. (1600 ft. above the lake) commands fine views l. over to the Alps. It crosses the Seyon and near the viaduct over the valley of Serrières penetrates a tunnel 1850 ft. long. Fine Alpine view on emerging.

Corcelles Stat., 2 short tunnels.

Chambrelieu Stat. See from it the line to Pontarlier (Rte. 51), nearly 1000 ft. below. The direction of the line is now reversed from S.W. to N., passing over the 2 small tunnels just mentioned.

*Hauts Geneveys Stat.* (Hôtel Reybaud), 2944 ft. above the sea, the summit level of the line.

rt. grand view of Mont Blanc.

Through a tunnel under the Col des Loges, which the high-road surmounts; close to it is

Convers Stat. Another tunnel before

*Chaux de Fonds Stat.*—(*Inns*: Fleur de Lys, Balances, Lion d'Or, all indifferent)—a town of 18,000 Inhab., in a bleak, upland, and desolate valley, bare of wood and nearly destitute of water, and from its great elevation of 3070 ft. above the sea, capable of producing only a scanty crop of oats. The village covers an area not less than that of the city of Oxford, each cottage being an isolated cube, surrounded by a croft or garden half an acre or an acre in extent; it was, however, burnt in 1794. Its inhabitants are reputed to be very rich. It is the chief seat of the manufacture of clocks and watches. This is not carried on in large factories, but in the separate dwellings of the workmen. Each man usually makes only one particular piece of machinery, leaving even the finishing of it to others. The number of persons here and at Locle, and in the neighbouring district, engaged in different branches of watch-making is about 12,000; the wages vary from 2½ fr. to 10 fr. a day. The number of gold and silver watches made in Locle in 1861 was 216,830. This is not the actual number made, which amounted to 600,000. In 1774 the total number of watches made was 300. There are two *subterranean mills* here, turned by the stream of the valley previous to its sinking underground; the rocks have been blasted to afford space for the mills; but those at Locle are even more curious. *Diligences* to Porentrui;—to Sonceboz, by the Val St. Imier.

The *Doubs*, which separates Switzerland from France, traverses one of those singular fissures common in the Jura limestone, and descends in a fall (le Saut du Doubs) 80 ft. high. Above the fall the river, dammed up by rocks, spreads out into a sort of lake; below, for the space of nearly 6 m., it runs between rocks 800 or 1000 ft. high, presenting to the pedestrian both here and lower down, as far as Goumois

and St. Ursitz, many scenes of beauty and interest.

The Rly. makes another bend to reach

*Le Locle Stat.*—(*Inn*: Trois Rois)—another scattered village, occupied by an industrious population of 9336 souls; the men chiefly watchmakers, the women lacemakers; rebuilt since a fire which consumed it in 1833.

The little stream of the *Bied*, which traverses the valley, loses itself, at a short distance from Locle, in a chasm in the rock. This outlet, however, proved insufficient to drain the valley; and the district around the town was, in consequence, inundated at the season of the melting of the snows—and not much better than a morass at any time. To remedy this evil, a tunnel, 950 ft. long, was pierced through the screen of solid limestone-rock which encompasses the valley in 1802-6, and this now effectually carries off into the Doubs the previously stagnant waters. At Col des Roches, a short distance from this artificial drain or emissary, and about a mile from Locle, the river disappears in a natural opening, sinking into the heart of the mountain, through a vertical abyss, more than 100 ft. deep. This water-power, or privilege, as an American would call it, is not lost; but, in order to render it available, water-wheels have been constructed within the cavernous cleft, whose powerful machinery, impelled by the falling stream, moves a corn and saw mill. "You go down flights of broken and slippery stairs, cut in the rock, to these mills, placed one under another, in very frightful situations undoubtedly, but rendered more so to the imagination of the beholder from the circumstances of darkness and ignorance of the means by which the works are secured, by the noise, the unfathomable depth below, &c."—*Simond*.

An excursion to Saut du Doubs can be made in two ways. 1. A pretty char-road leads from La Chaux de Fonds to the Planchettes; thence to Moron in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr., and to the Saut  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr., along the bank of the river, returning by Les Brenets and Le Locle. 2. A

good carriage-road goes from La Chaux de Fonds to the Locle, thence to the mill of the Col des Roches, *La Roche Fendue*, the elegant village of the Brenets.

A special festival, called the *Fête du Saut du Doubs*, is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month of July, and draws thither sometimes 100 boats with music and feasting.

*La Roche Fendue* is an aperture bored in the rock, dividing Switzerland from France, commenced 1779, and only lately finished, by which the road to Besançon is shortened by 6 m.: it opens a singular view over the Val de Doubs.

There is another road from Locle to Neuchâtel, by Chaux de Milieu, Les Ponts, the heights of La Tourne, and Corcelles.

## ROUTE 51.

PONTARLIER (IN FRANCE) TO NEUCHÂTEL, BY MOTIERS TRAVERS.

About 32 Eng. m. *Railway* (Franco-Suisse) opening the most direct communication between Paris and W. Switzerland; 3 trains daily in 2½ hrs. It passes through scenery of great interest.

*Pontarlier*—(Inns: H. National; La Croix Blanche)—the last town in France. [*See Handbook of France*].

The Railroad first ascends by the side of the river Doubs, and through the pass of La Cluse, a mountain gateway, fortified and capable of being closed, between France and Switzerland, to St. Pierre de Joux. The defile is commanded by (rt.) the *Château de Joux*, situated on the summit of a precipice, at the foot of which the roads from Pontarlier and Salins, and those from Neuchâtel and Geneva, by Jougne, unite. The pass has been strengthened by a detached fort on a still higher rock (l.). This frontier-fort was the prison of the unfortunate Toussaint l'Ouverture, when treacherously carried off from St. Domingo by command of Napoleon. He ended his days here, some say by violent means; but the sudden transition from the climate of the tropics to a dank dungeon on the heights of the Jura sufficiently explains the cause of his death, without the need of violence. Here also was confined, previously, another remarkable prisoner, *Mirabeau*, who was sent hither by virtue of a lettre de cachet obtained by his father, "l'Ami des Hommes," as he called himself, and the tyrant of his own family, as he proved himself. *Mirabeau*, having by his insinuating manners obtained leave from the governor to visit the town of Pontarlier

on parole, made love to Madame de Monnier, the young wife of an old magistrate there, and eloped with her to Holland. She was the Sophie to whom he addressed some of his obscene writings.

Between the villages of Verrières de Joux and Verrières de Suisse, the French frontier is crossed. The Custom-house regulations on this part of the French frontier are more than usually rigorous. Passengers by rly. avoid this inconvenience.

The country now becomes exceedingly romantic—the hills clothed with forests, the valleys carpeted with the richest verdure, and sprinkled with neat cottages in the picturesque style of architecture peculiar to the chain of the Jura and Alps. Cheese, nearly as good as that of Gruyères, and sold under that name, is made on the upland pastures of the Jura.

The descent from the summit of the ridge into the Val Travers is through another narrow gorge, called La Chaîne, because the passage was at one time stopped by a massy chain drawn across the road, and fastened to staples in the rock. This primitive fortification is said to have been a relic of the Burgundian wars, intended to arrest the artillery of Charles the Bold.

At the village of St. Sulpice the river Reuse, which waters the Val Travers, rises out of the rock. This abundant source is said to be the outlet of the Lac d'Étalières, situated about 10 miles off, among the hills.

*Fleurier* (Inn: Couronne, good) (2600 Inhab.), built on both sides of the Reuse, thrives by the manufacture of watches.

Bovaresse Stat., Travers Stat. Here is a tunnel.

Couvet Stat. Omnibus to Motiers. *Diligence* daily to Le Locle by Les Ponts. Distilleries of Kirschwasser. At Presta, on the l. bank of the river, is a mine of asphalté worked by a Parisian company. Stratum 12 ft. thick. Far down, on the opposite side of the valley lies

*Motiers Travers*—(Inns: Hotel de Ville, good; Maison de Commune)—

a clean, thriving village inhabited by watch and lace makers, on the rt. bank of the Reuse. It was the place of residence of Jean Jacques Rousseau after his banishment from Geneva. In the house occupied by him his desk is shown, at which he wrote his celebrated 'Lettres de la Montagne;' and up stairs, in a wooden gallery, two peeping-holes, through which he could observe people out of doors without being seen himself. He quitted the place under the pretence of having been persecuted, and because the boys threw stones at his windows.

The Val Travers is highly picturesque.

Noirigue Stat. [From this the ascent of the Creux de Vent, 4800 ft., may be made in 1 hr.; descent by St. Aubin or Boudry. "Its summit is hollowed out into a vast and profound cavity, 500 ft. deep, surrounded by an amphitheatre of limestone rock from the top to the bottom." It is more than 2 m. in diameter. "At times, when a change of weather is impending, the crater of the mountain is seen to become suddenly filled with a cloud of white vapour, working and rising and falling with an easy but perceptible motion, until the whole hollow presents the appearance of an immense cauldron of boiling vapour, which seldom rises above the edge. If any escape, it is by the opening towards the defile; and I have seen it repeatedly issue in a thin white line, and float gradually down the centre of the valley till imperceptibly diminished and dissipated."—*Latrobe*.

The echo produced by firing a gun within the Creux de Vent is like a scattered fire of musketry, or a succession of discharges from a battery; and the hollow may be called the very cradle of the winds, which appear to be perpetually blowing from it.]

The view now opens of the Lake of Neuchâtel, rt.; far below is seen the viaduct of the Yverdun Railway, while high up overhead is the Stat.

of Chambrelieu of the Chaux de Fonds Rly.

Auvernier Junct. Stat. Here we meet the Neuchâtel and Yverdun line (Rte. 49), and the two run side by side. Near this fine views of the Lake and the Alps. Gradual ascent to the lofty *viaduct* over the gorge of Serrières. Above the gorge the Castle Beauregard is seen.

The rly. line along the valley of the Reuse has encountered and overcome very considerable engineering difficulties. 3 viaducts and 11 tunnels occur in a space of 21 m.

NEUCHÂTEL JUNCT. STAT. and Terminus (Rte. 48), high up above the lake. By shady walks the pedestrian may descend to the lake into the town, avoiding the dusty road.

## ROUTE 52.

## YVERDUN, OR LAUSANNE, TO THE LAC DE JOUX.

This is an exceedingly pretty excursion of two days, well worth taking by those who wish to see the best Jura scenery.

There are diligences to *Le Pont*, in the Vallée de Joux, from—*a*, Cossonay; *b*, Chavornay.

*a. Cossonay Stat.* (Rte. 49). From this a diligence with only two seats starts once a day, on the arrival of the train from Lausanne, and reaches *Le Pont* in 4 hrs. up (3 hrs. down), passing over a high ridge, whence there is a very fine view of the Alps.

*Le Pont* (see below).

*b. Chavornay Stat.* (Rte. 49). From this an omnibus goes, on the arrival of most trains, to Orbe, 2 m.; whence diligence once a day to *Le Pont*, 13 m. The diligence is very slow, and, stoppages included, not less than 5 hrs. are consumed between Chavornay and *Le Pont*.

After leaving Chavornay Stat. the road crosses numerous branches of the Orbe and Noxon, through a flat valley to

*Orbe* (*Inn.*: Ecu de France, fair and cheap; Maison de Ville; Guillaume Tell), a very picturesque and ancient town of 1927 Inhab., built on a hill nearly insulated by the Orbe, which is crossed by 3 bridges. The lower bridge, on the road to the Vallée de Joux, is of great antiquity; the upper and modern one, of a single arch, 124 ft. span, is in use at present. Orbe was the Roman station *Urbigenum*, and a place of importance in the middle ages, under the Burgundian Kings, who had a *Royal Castle* here. The fair but cruel Brunehilde, Queen of the Franks, took refuge here, with her granddaughter, but was carried a prisoner

to Worms, and there barbarously put to death. The three sons of Lothaire I. met here, in 855, to divide his kingdom. In 1475 the Swiss took Orbe by assault; but the *Castle* made a lengthened resistance. The garrison, yielding step by step, disputed the possession of each chamber, stair, and passage. The last remnant were pursued into a tower, which the Swiss set fire to, and the few who fell into their hands alive were thrown over the battlements. The site of the castle now forms the public promenade, whence in clear weather there is a fine view over the valleys of the Orbe and Noxon to the Bernese Alps. Two towers of the castle are still standing.

An attempt was made in 1639 to connect the lakes of Geneva and Neuchâtel by a canal between the rivers Orbe and Venoge; it was cut as far as Entre Roche, about 12 m., but was never carried further.

About 2 m. above Orbe, near Mont Charand, is a cascade of the Orbe.

The road to the valley of Joux leaves Orbe by the new bridge spanning the ravine of the Orbe, and soon begins to ascend by a series of zig-zags, commanding very fine views of the snowy alps on the one side, and of the Jura range on the other. The country through which the road passes is fertile and pretty, and the road in beautiful order.

*Romainmotier* is a small village, most picturesquely placed in a hollow. The church of its old abbey is one of the oldest and most interesting in Switzerland; the nave remains as it was in 753. The road now follows the green and pleasant valley of the little river Nozon, continually ascending for 1½ hr. to

*Vaulion*, a little village in a wider part of the valley, inhabited by shoemakers, and overhung by the Dent de Vaulion. [The diligence stops a long time here, and the pedestrian will do well to ascend the Dent de Vaulion at once, walking about 1½ m. along the high road, then turning to the right and ascending the mountain which lies before him, de-

ascending from the summit by another path to Le Pont.] A series of zig-zags take the carriage-road to a higher level, where little but short grass, rocks, and firs is to be seen. The road is beautifully kept, and reminds the traveller strongly of a large English park. A short descent through a narrow pass, bordered by limestone cliffs and firs, brings us to

*Le Pont* (*Inn*: H. de la Truite, tolerable), a little village, named from a bridge across the channel which connects the *Lac de Joux* with the small *Lac des Brenets*. It is very prettily situated at the N. end of the *Lac de Joux*, and looks like an English village, with its neat roads, good houses, and green fields. There are guides, but only one or two horses, and no sidesaddles. Care should be taken in walking amongst these mountains to avoid old wells dug for the flocks, and imperfectly covered. An unfortunate English gentleman, named Herbert, was drowned in one near the chalets of the Mont Tendre in 1837, and is buried at Mont Richer.

The valley in which the *Lac de Joux* is situated contains two other lakes, *Le Ter* and *Brenets*, and is entirely shut in by high hills; so that, although these sheets of water are fed by all the streams of the valley, they have no visible outlet above ground. There are, however, large cavities and orifices in the beds of these lakes, called *entonnoirs*, through which the waters escape. These fissures are sometimes incapable of carrying off the waters, and thus inundations are caused in the valley. A tunnel, of no very great extent, might drain the lake entirely. The *Lac de Joux* is 3210 ft. above the level of the sea. Its quiet aspect, surrounded by grassy mountains, limestone cliffs, and woods of beech and fir, would, if it were more in the highway, make the valley a popular resort. Several pleasant excursions may be made.

a. To ascend the *Dent de Vaulion*, the summit of which is not visible from Le Pont, go along the high road to Vallorbe for about a mile, until the road opens into a little valley.

Cross the little meadow or marsh, and begin to ascend through the woods in a N.E. direction. After a short walk through the wood the path follows a little valley or depression of green sward, between fir-trees and beeches. Beyond this there is no regular path, but you should continue to ascend, and the top (4930 ft.) will be reached in an hour's good walking from Le Pont. A guide is not absolutely necessary, but without one you will probably lose some time. The N.W. side of the summit is a sheer limestone precipice of some 1500 ft., looking down into the green valley of the Orbe. N. is seen the range of the Jura, E. the Bernese Alps, S. the chain of the Pennine Alps to Mont Blanc; the rest is concealed by the Mont Tendre. S.W. the lake and valley of Joux.

b. About 10 min. from the village of *Abbaye*, which is 2 m. from Le Pont, by climbing up a steep and picturesque ravine, out of which a fine stream issues, a cavern, called *Chaudière d'Enfer*, will be found, into which, by crawling and using a rope, you can penetrate about 200 yds. to a little lake or pool. There are other unexplored recesses in the cavern. Guide at the inn, 2 fr.

c. Another ascent is to the *Mont Tendre* (5510 ft.). The path to it goes up on the l. bank of the ravine, behind *Abbaye*; and the ascent occupies 3 hrs. from Le Pont. The view from its summit, extending to Mont Blanc on the one side, and to Soleure on the other, will repay the trouble of the ascent. There is a path down the opposite side of the mountain, leading, in 2 hrs., to the village of Mont Richer.

d. Instead of returning direct to Chavornay, the pedestrian who has ascended the *Dent de Vaulion* may either take a path on the N. shore of the *Lac de Brenets*, or follow the high road to Vallorbe, and visit the source of the *Orbe*, which rises at once a copious spring, fed no doubt by subterraneous conduits from the *Lac de Joux*. Near the source is an extensive cavern, called *Grotte des Fées*. The source is



about 6 m. from Le Pont, round the L. Brenet. By starting in the morning the pedestrian may catch the diligence from Salins to Chavornay, and so return by the pretty vale of the Orbe.

e. Or the excursion may be prolonged by either shore of the Lac de Joux to *Le Brassus*, a thriving town of watchmakers, and thence to *Les Rousses*, on the old post-road to Geneva, descending from which place there is a very fine view of the Alps.

f. Another route is to cross from Le Brassus to the village of St. Georges, by the Asile de Marcheiruz, 3 hrs. walk; from thence 3 leagues by a good road to Rolle, on the Lake of Geneva (Rte. 55).

## ROUTE 53.

### LYONS, OR MACON, TO GENEVA (RAILWAY).

From Macon to Geneva, 114 m.; from Lyons, 100 m.; 3 trains daily in about 6 and 7 hrs. The rly. from Lyons and that from Paris (passing through Macon) join at the *Ambérieu* Junc. Stat., distance 28 m. from Lyons, 42 m. from Macon. There is but one express train each way daily.

From Ambérieu the rly. ascends the rocky valley of the little river Serrant, making considerable curves, to

*Tenay Stat.*, beautifully situated at the junction of three valleys. Soon after this the road passes between lofty cliffs not unlike those of Clifton, and by a series of little lakes, which occasioned great difficulties to the engineers. A tunnel is passed to

*Rossillon Stat.* Here the summit level is reached, and the road emerges on the Swiss side of the Jura. Limestone mountains seem to close round the line, and there is a magnificent view of distant mountains. The road passes under the *Grand Colombier*, which overhangs

*Culoz Junc. Stat.* (*Inns*: Croix Blanche; Union). Here the line to Chambéry and Turin (Rte. 153) branches off. The rly. to Geneva henceforward keeps close to the Rhône, only leaving at one point in order to cut off an angle.

*Seyssel Stat.*, on the Rhône. Here are quarries which furnish asphalt.

*Billiat Stat.* 1 m. hence is the *Malpertuis* ("pertuis" means a gorge), an abyss even more imposing than the *Perte du Rhône* (see further on). The river quietly flows at a depth of 600 ft. between walls of rock, sometimes not more than 14 ft. apart.

*Bellegarde Stat.* The last town in France, and French custom-house. 10 min. walk from stat., behind the H. de la Poste, is the *Perte du Rhône*. The gorge of the Valscrene is crossed on a viaduct; far below is the old road and bridge. Through the Credo Tunnel (Rte. 53 e). The extensive fortifications of the *Fort de l'Ecluse*, are passed near

*Collonges Stat.*, in a narrow defile; rt. rises the Vuache, l. the Jura chain. This pass was fortified by Julius Cæsar. The Swiss territory is entered at *Challax*, 7 m. from

*Geneva Terminus*, at end of Rue de Mt. Blanc, leading to the lake and bridge.

GENEVA. (*Germ.* Genf; *Ital.* Ginevra.) *Inns*: \*H. de la Métropole, an

immense establishment opposite the Jardin Anglais, a first-rate hotel. H. de la Paix, Quai de Mt. Blanc, kept by the former landlord of the Ecu, excellent, a much finer house, and equally well managed; Hôtel des Bergues; Couronne, well managed, moderate, civil landlord—all these are excellent inns, facing the lake. Hotel Victoria, near the rly. stat., 1st class; H. Schweitzerhof; H. Beaurivage and d'Angleterre; H. l'Ecu de Genève; H. du Rhône (bad smells), reasonable, 2nd class; La Balance most comfortable as a 2nd class inn. *Restaurant*, Richter (Lion d'Or), good. *Cafés*, Du Nord (also restaurant), facing the lake, one of the best in Switzerland; La Poste..

Passports are never required at Geneva.

A walk through Geneva from the Rly. Stat. to the Bridge of Mt. Blanc. View of the mountain from Quai du Mt. Blanc; Jardin Anglais; Relief of Mt. Blanc; Pierre de Niton; Public Library in Rue Verdaine; Cathedral; House of Calvin, 11, Rue des Chanoines; House of J. J. Rousseau, 40, Grande Rue; Musée de l'Académie; H. de Ville; Arsenal opposite Athénæum; along the promenade of La Treille to the Botanic Garden, by the Theatre to Musée Rath; Place Neuve; Fountain of the Escalade (see History) at end of Rue des Allemands; by the Quais to Rue Mt. Blanc.

Geneva, though the capital of the smallest of the Swiss cantons, except Zug, is the most populous town in the Confederation, since it contains 41,756 Inhab. (9322 Rom. Catholics, and 14,795 foreigners). It is well situated, at the W. extremity of the lake of Geneva, at the point where "the blue waters of the arrowy Rhone" issue out of it. The river divides the town into two parts; the smaller on the rt. bank being called Quartier St. Gervais. The intensely blue colour of the waters of the Rhone, alluded to by Byron, is certainly very remarkable, and resembles nothing so much as the discharge of indigo from a dyer's vat. The cause of it has not been satisfactorily explained. Sir

Humphry Davy attributed it to the presence of iodine. The extreme purity lasts but for a short space, since a mile below the town it is polluted by the admixture of the waters of the turbid Arve.

Geneva, when seen from the lake, presents a very imposing appearance, in consequence of improvements, made since 1830, for which it is indebted, in no slight degree, to the circulation of the gold of English travellers among its inhabitants. Several new quarters have started up on the banks of the Rhone and the margin of the lake, displaying handsome fronts of tall houses, lined with broad quays towards the lake. The Quai de Mont Blanc is a continuation of Quai des Bergues, and forms a row of magnificent houses. On the S. bank of the Rhone the unsightly houses which lined the margin of the lake have been refaced and beautified, while a broad belt of land has been gained from the water, and converted into a line of Quais. The Quais on both sides are connected by three handsome Bridges, thrown across the lake. The longest of these, completed 1863, leads from the Rlwy. and Quai du Mont Blanc to the Grand Quai and English Garden on S. side of the Lake. Another bridge is united with a small island, formerly a part of the fortifications, now occupied by a very inferior statue of Rousseau, by Pradier. Since 1848 the fortifications have been razed, those near the Porte de Rive partly thrown into the lake, so as to form another new Quai, occupied by streets and houses.

Geneva is divided into the upper and lower town; and this distinction, arising from the uneven nature of the ground, is perpetuated in the rank and condition of the inhabitants of the two divisions. The upper town consists almost entirely of the large and handsome mansions of the burgher aristocracy, heretofore the senators and magistrates of the republic, between whom and the inhabitants of the lower town, consisting of shopkeepers, a strong social line is drawn. The Quartier de St. Ger-

3. Public Library. U 2.
4. Boucherie. F 2.
5. Cathedral. C 4.
6. Acad. of Music. C 2.
7. English Church. F 4.
8. Hôtel de Ville. C 4.
9. Halls aux Hies. D 2.
10. Calvin's House. C 4.
11. Rousseau's House. F 2.
12. Musée Rath. C 2.

13. Post and Telegraph Offices. D 2.
14. Frison. D 2.
15. Fr. Protestant Ch. F 2.
16. Theatre. C 2.
17. Monument of Kappeler. D 2.
18. Atheneum.
19. Jardin Anglais.
20. R. Cath. Ch.

# S

## HOTELS.

- a. H. des Bergues. F 4.
- b. Métropole. D 4.
- c. Ecu de Genève. F 4.
- d. Couronne. D 4.
- e. H. de Genève. C 2.
- f. H. d'Angleterre. D 4.
- g. H. d'Angleterre et Belgique.
- h. H. de la Paix.

vais is the abode of the workmen, the seat of democracy after the French pattern—the Faubourg St. Antoine of Geneva:—its streets are narrow, its houses lofty, and it has something of the air of the old town of Edinburgh. The feuds arising between the high and low town would fill a long and amusing historical chapter: they often led to bloodshed; but the democrats below generally brought their exalted neighbours to reason by the simple expedient of cutting off the water-pipes, taking especial care to guard the hydraulic machine which furnished the supply to the upper town, and which is situated in their quarter. The disputes are now between the upper town and St. Gervais, the lower town siding sometimes with one, sometimes with the other.

On the island, in the middle of the Rhone, not far from the Hydraulic Machine, traces may, it is said, be discovered of a Roman structure, supposed to be the foundations of one of the *towers* erected by Julius Cæsar, to prevent the Helvetians crossing the river. The earliest mention of Geneva occurs in his Commentaries, where it is described as “the last fortress of the Allobroges, and nearest to the Helvetian frontier.”

Although Geneva is deservedly a great focus for travellers of all nations, it possesses within it few objects of interest to the passing stranger. As a town, it has few fine public buildings; in short, scarcely any *sights*. It is owing to its beautiful environs, to its vicinity to Chamouni, to the charming scenery of its lake, and to its position on the high road from Paris to Italy, that it has become a place of so much resort.

The *Cathedral*, or *Ch. of St. Pierre* is of an extreme simplicity of architecture. Its fine Corinthian portico added on the outside is a blemish where it is placed, but its interior possesses interest as a very early and uncorrupted specimen of the Gothic of the 11th century. It contains the monuments of Agrippa d'Aubigny, the friend of Henry IV., and grand-

father of Mad. de Maintenon, and that of the Duc Henri de Rohan, a leader of the French Protestants in the reign of Louis XIII., slain near Rheinfelden, 1638. A statue of plaster now replaces one of marble, ruthlessly destroyed at the French Revolution. The canopy of the pulpit is the same under which Calvin preached.

A *Rom. Catholic Church* in the Gothic style has been built near the rly. stat.; and a synagogue (*Temple Juif*) in the Saracenic style near the Porte Neuve.

The *English Church*, near the Bergues Hotel, built by subscription, on the site of the former fortifications, was consecrated in 1853 by the Bishop of Winchester. Mr. George Haldimann gave 1000*l.* towards it. Service is performed every Sunday at 11 and 6.

The *Palais Electoral*, outside the Porte Neuve, is a handsome building for elections, exhibitions, meetings, and festivals.

The *Musée Rath*, so named after its founder, General Rath, who left the reversion of his fortune to it, is a building in the Greek style, close to the Porte Neuve, open daily from 11 to 3; it contains a collection of pictures and other works of art, the greater part by native artists. Among the Genevese painters, Calame, Diday, Hornung, and Töpfer deserve to be mentioned.

The *Musée d'Academie*, No. 11, Grande Rue, is chiefly interesting to the student as containing the geological collections of Saussure, the fossil plants of MM. Brongniart and Decandolle, and the collections of M. Necker. It is principally filled with the native productions of Switzerland, and contains specimens of the chamois, of the Bouquetin, the dog of St. Bernard, of all the fishes of the rivers and lakes of this country; among them the *ferra*, the lotte, and a trout weighing 43 lbs. from the lake of Geneva.

There is also a cabinet of *antiquities*; some of them found in the neighbourhood, such as a silver buckler, with fine bas-reliefs, discovered in the bed of the Arve, inscribed “*Largitas*

Valentiniani Augusti;" some instruments of sacrifice found near the rocks of Neptune in the lake, &c. &c. Also the lantern dropped in the town ditch by one of the Savoyard soldiers engaged in the unsuccessful attempts to scale the walls in 1602 (see below). In the same building is the Société de Lecture, a circulating library of 40,000 vols., and a large reading-room for periodicals. Foreigners are easily admitted to the latter.

The *Public Library*, Rue Verdaine, attached to the *College*, a scholastic looking building, of no architectural pretensions, behind St. Pierre, founded by Bonnivard (the Prisoner of Chillon), contains 70,000 volumes. *Curiosities*:—394 MS. letters of Calvin, almost illegible, but with fair transcripts (there is one addressed to Lady Jane Grey while a prisoner in the Tower); 44 vols. of his MS. sermons 1549-60; 12 vols. of letters addressed to him, and many important documents relating to the Council of Basle; several volumes of letters of Theodore Beza; the manuscript of the 'Noble Leçon,' a work of the ancient Waldenses; part of the account-book of the household of Philip le Bel, for 1308, written with a style upon waxed tablets, but now almost effaced; a translation of Quintus Curtius, with beautiful illustrations, taken along with the baggage of Charles the Bold at Morat. Discourses of St. Augustine, a MS. on papyrus of the 7th century. Letters of St. Vincent de Paul, J. J. Rousseau, &c. The library is opened every day but Saturday and Sunday, from 11 to 4.

A new *Museum of Fine Arts*, the gift to the town of Madame Eynard, called *Athenæum*, is a beautiful building near the Botanic Garden.

The *Botanic Garden* behind the theatre, and near the Porte Neuve, deserves mention, as having been laid out under the direction of the eminent botanist Decandolle; but the funds are so limited that the collection

of plants is of no great importance. The ground it occupies has also painful historical associations. On this spot, in 1794, took place fusillades and butcheries too horrible to be detailed, in which the blood of the most respectable citizens of the town was shed, condemned to execution by a band of wretches, most of whom were their fellow-citizens, though directed by a deputy from the Comité du Salut Public at Paris.

Besides the names of Calvin and Rousseau, which are connected with Geneva—the one by adoption, the other by birth—it is the birthplace of many illustrious men, whose reputation may be styled European. The list includes the names of Isaac Casaubon; of Lefort, the friend and councillor of Peter the Great; of Necker, the weak and ill-starred minister of Louis XVI., and father of Madame de Staël; of the naturalists Saussure (who first ascended Mont Blanc), Bonnet, De Luc; and Huber, the biographer of the bee and ant; Decandolle, the botanist; of Delolme and Mallet du Pan, writers; of Galatin, U.S.; of Rossi, the Pope's minister, assassinated at Rome in 1849; of Dumont, the friend and adviser of Mirabeau and Jeremy Bentham; and Sismondi, the historian. Among the living there are Neckar, the geologist; De la Rive, the chemist; Alphonse de Candolle, and Edmond Boissier, botanists; Plantamour, astronomer; Maunoir, the oculist; and Merle d'Aubigné, author of the *History of the Reformation*, and a preacher at the Oratoire.

Geneva may be regarded as the intellectual metropolis of Switzerland; and strangers who choose it as their residence, if provided with good introductions, will find, among the upper classes, a very agreeable society, including many individuals distinguished for their literary and scientific acquirements.

The staple manufacture of Geneva from which it derives its chief commercial prosperity, is that of watches, musical boxes, and jewellery. The first watch was brought to Geneva in 1587,

and at the end of the last century 4000 persons were employed within the town, and 2000 without the walls, on this manufacture. At present the number is diminished to less than 3000, though, from improvements in the mechanical processes and increased skill of the workmen, the number of watches made is much greater than before, 100,000 being now manufactured annually. Upwards of 50 watch-makers' and 70 jewellers' workshops are kept in constant employment in the town; and it has been calculated that in good years, 75,000 ounces of gold, 5000 marks of silver, and precious stones to the value of a million of francs, are used in them. A committee of master workmen with a syndic at their head, called *commission de surveillance*, are appointed by the government to inspect every workshop and the articles made in it, to guard against fraud in the substitution of metals not of legal alloy, and thus to prevent any deterioration in a branch of industry productive of so great an advantage to Geneva. Among the best establishments for jewellery and watches is that of Rossel et Fils, Rue du Rhône; Hesse and Metford, Grand Quai, 14; Liodet. A good watch costs from 300 to 500 francs.

At the French custom-house, musical snuff-boxes, of Genevese manufacture, and watches pay a duty of only 5 fr. each. Smuggling, once carried on to an enormous extent between the Swiss and French frontiers, has greatly diminished, owing to the modifications of the French tariff.

Theatrical performances, for centuries interdicted in Geneva by one of the austere laws of Calvin, are now tolerated, and a *Salle de Spectacle* has been built close to the Porte Neuve. Voltaire greatly shocked the prejudices of the citizens by acting plays, as it were under their very nose, at Les Délices and Ferney. Rousseau writes to him, "Je ne vous aime pas; vous avez corrompu ma république en lui donnant des spectacles." A *Conservatoire de Musique* has also been erected.

A very well executed model of Mont [Switz.]

*Blanc*, the work of an artist named Sene, who employed 10 years upon it, is placed in a building erected for the purpose, in the Jardin Anglais. It is interesting to study either before or after a visit to Chamouni.

On the grand Quai, close to the port where the steamers land, a *Limnimètre* (lake measure) has been erected to mark the rise and fall of the waters of the lake, which amounts to 50 inches or more, and makes a very great difference in the appearance of the town.

At the *Boucheries* the town maintains, at the public expense, a brace of Eagles. These birds are the armorial bearings of Geneva, as the bear is of Berne.

The *Post Office* is a handsome edifice on the Place Bel Air, Rue de la Corrairie. The *Electric Telegraph Office* is on the First Floor.

There is a most respectable Genevese Club, called the *Cercle de la Rive*.

A *British Consul* was appointed for Geneva, 1846. Mr. Mackenzie, 19, Rue du Rhône, the gentleman who fills the office, is most obliging and anxious to be useful.

An American (U.S.) Consul resides here.

*Railways*: to Paris by Macon in 15 hrs.; to Lyons or Paris by Fort l'Ecluse (Paris time kept); to Lausanne, Berne, Sion, on the Simplon Route; to Neuchâtel, by Morges (Berne time); to Aix les Bains, Chambéry, Mont Cenis.

*Steamboats* twice a day along the N. shore of the lake to Lausanne and Villeneuve in 5 hours. Twice along the S. shore in connexion with the Sion Rly. at Bouveret.

To *Chamouni*.—Diligences daily at 7, 7½, and 8, from Grand Quai, making the journey in 9 or 10 hours.

*Voituriers* charge for a carriage with one horse 15 fr., with two horses 30 fr. per diem (Köl liker, Aux Pâquis, lets carriages).

*Post-horses*—120, Rue du Cendrier. ½ a post extra is charged on quitting Geneva.

The English traveller, especially if he be leaving Switzerland, will do well

to provide himself here with those little English comforts which he will not find beyond the next custom-house. At the shop of Archinard and Bordier, in the Rue Basse, all kinds of English cutlery and household goods may be had genuine. Mrs. Lang, 8, Rue Mt. Blanc, for "articles Anglais" and needlework. The Demoiselles Lacour, in the Grande Rue, are celebrated for gloves and ladies' shoes; Clerc Bonnet, Quai des Bergues, has the best supply of cigars, tobacco, and snuff. Brachard, Grande Rue, and Wesel, opposite, are good stationers. Briquet has published good maps. Bastard, Rue des Allemands, a good chemist.

Monroe, bookseller, 32, Grand Quai, has a *reading-room*, and keeps a store of maps, guides, English books, &c.; and a visitors' and strangers' book. Good tea and Palmer's biscuits may be had of Monroe.

Dr. Coindet is an eminent and friendly *physician*. Dr. Lombard also is well informed, kind, and experienced: both studied at Edinburgh.

There is also a resident English physician, Dr. Metcalf, 3, Quai du Mont Blanc. G. Baker keeps an English pharmacy. The extremity of the Quai du Mont Blanc, or the Isle Jean Jacques Rousseau, formerly the *Isle des Bergues*, is a good point of view to see the lake and Mont Blanc.

In the *Cemetery of Plain Palais*, a little way beyond the Porte Neuve, Sir Humphry Davy, who died here in 1829, and near to him Decandolle the botanist, Dumont, and Pictet, are buried. The site of Calvin's grave is unknown.

In the bed of the lake lie many granitic boulders, transported from the high Alps. Two of these, a short distance beyond the port of Geneva, and a little to the S.E. of the town, are so large as to project above the water. They are called *Pierres de Niton*, from a tradition that sacrifices were offered upon them to the god *Neptune* by the Romans. Indeed, instruments of sacrifice have been found near them.

*History.* Geneva is of Roman origin. In the middle ages up to 1530 Geneva

was governed by its bishop, with whom the citizens had many struggles. In 1401, the Counts of Savoy became powerful enough always to obtain the bishopric for one of their own family. One portion of the citizens, leagued together under the name of Eidgenossen (from which "Huguenot" is probably derived), after many struggles with the Counts or Dukes, in 1518 concluded an alliance with Freyburg and soon afterwards with Berne, and in 1530 compelled the Duke of Savoy to sign a treaty by which they regained their independence. The struggles between the different classes of citizens in the following 250 years are exceedingly curious. After a sort of reign of terror Geneva was annexed to France in 1798. In 1814 it became a member of the Swiss confederation, and the aristocratic government was re-established, but after many changes a democratic government was established in 1846, every citizen having a vote. In 1846 the town had a balance in hand of 300,000 fr.; it now owes 23,000,000 fr., besides an unknown floating debt, an annual deficit of 800,000 fr., and a municipal debt of 6,000,000 fr. On the other hand, it should be said that many public improvements have been carried out under the new government.

Geneva may be said to possess an historical interest for intelligent travellers, far greater than that to be derived from the individual objects of curiosity contained within its walls. The influence which she has exercised, not only over Europe but over the world, by means of her children, or those whom she has adopted as her citizens, is quite out of proportion to the limited extent of a territory which one may traverse from end to end in a morning's ride. Voltaire ridiculed its diminutiveness by saying, "Quand je secoue ma perruque je poudre toute la république;" and the Emperor Paul called the disputes of its citizens a tempest in a tumbler of water: yet from Geneva emanated those religious doctrines from which Scotland, Holland, and a large part of France, Germany, and



Switzerland, derive their form of faith, and which were transported by the Pilgrim Fathers to the opposite shores of the Atlantic. Here also were sown those political opinions which bore fruit in the English revolution under Charles I., in the American and the French revolutions.

It was in the year 1536 that *John Calvin*, the reformer, passed through the town a fugitive, on his way from Italy to Basle. Two years had not elapsed since the Genevese had abolished Roman Catholicism, expelled their bishop, and adopted the Reformation. Farel, who was the means of introducing it, was then preaching at Geneva, and, aware of Calvin's talents and powerful eloquence, entreated him to remain. Calvin obeyed the call, and, in a short space, the itinerant preacher and foreigner was raised to be the dictator of the republic, ruling its turbulent democracy with a sway not more mild than that of the dukes of Savoy and bishops of Geneva, under which the citizens had groaned for ages, and from which the Reformation had at length released them. From the pulpit of St. Peter's Church, which became at once the tribune and judgment-seat of the reformer, he denounced the prevailing immorality of the town with such eloquence and force that profligacy was obliged to hide its head. His hearers, running into an opposite extreme, adopted a rigorous and puritanical austerity of manners, and every transgression of Calvin's code of morals was visited with punishment of the utmost severity.

But Calvin's influence was not confined to the pulpit; he was elected president of the Consistory, of which one third of the permanent members were ministers, and the remainder laymen holding office for a year only. This council assumed an authority far more despotic than that of the bishops: it exercised the power of an inquisition, to examine into men's private lives, and into the affairs of families of whatever rank.

The sumptuary laws enacted by

Calvin were severe, but were rigidly enforced by the Consistory. They contained such enactments as the following: a dinner for ten persons was limited to five dishes; plush breeches were laid under interdict; violations of the sabbath were followed by a public admonition from the pulpit; adultery was punished with death; and the gamester was exposed in the pillory, with a pack of cards tied round his neck.

Calvin was equally rigorous in the maintenance of orthodoxy. Servetus, condemned by him for holding anti-trinitarian doctrines, which, however, he did not attempt to disseminate in Geneva, was burnt at the stake in the *Champ de Bourreau*, the ancient place of execution outside the walls. The hole in which it was planted is now filled up, and the destination of the spot is changed.

Geneva, thus become the metropolis of Calvinism, and "the Rome of Protestantism," was resorted to by many foreigners, who sought refuge here from religious persecutions in their own country. Among a number of English and Scotch exiled by the cruelties of the reign of Queen Mary, was John Knox. He was made a citizen of Geneva in 1558, and did not finally quit it till 1560. Calvin died in 1564, at the age of 55, after 23 years of uninterrupted power: he was buried in the *cemetery of the Plain Palais*, but he forbade the Genevese to mark the spot where his remains were laid with a monument.

The Duke of Savoy, for many years after his authority within the town had been destroyed, was engaged in repeated open contests with the citizens; nor did he omit to maintain, within the walls, spies and secret partisans, in the hopes of gaining possession of it by surprise. The street called *Corraterie*, at the period in question, A.D. 1602, the town ditch, was the scene of the most memorable of these attempts, known in Swiss history as *the Escalade*. The inhabitants, lulled to security by a display of pacific intentions on the part of the reigning Duke Charles

Emanuel, had neglected all precautions to guard against an attack, even though warnings had been given them of approaching danger. On the night of Dec. 20th the townsfolk were aroused from sleep by the firing of musketry, and by an alarm that the enemy was already in possession. It appeared that a sentinel, in going his rounds with a lantern, had fallen among a party of armed men, who had quickly despatched him, but not before his cries and the report of his matchlock had aroused the rest of the guard. It was quickly discovered that a party of Savoyards, 200 strong, detached from a still larger force of 2000 men, who had approached the city in the darkness, and were posted on the Plain Palais, a little distance beyond the walls, had descended into the fosse of Corratierie, and by the aid of scaling-ladders, painted black, in order that they might not be seen, had surmounted the ramparts, were proceeding in small parties to burst open the Porte Neuve, and thus admit their associates on the outside. The Savoyards had already despatched a messenger announcing to their commander the capture of the town; but the citizens, though completely taken by surprise, were by no means seized with the panic which such an occurrence was likely to produce. Every man, armed as he might be, issued out into the streets; the small body of Savoyards who had gained the ramparts were quickly overpowered; the first gun fired from the walls, by a chance shot, swept away three of the scaling-ladders; and the enemy on the outside, on approaching the Porte Neuve, found that, instead of being blown up, it was strongly guarded, with the portcullis down. Many anecdotes are told of the prowess of the townspeople on that night; and an iron saucepan, with which an old woman knocked down a soldier, is still preserved in the arsenal, along with a piece of the scaling-ladders. The storming party, thus unexpectedly attacked, and at the same time cut off from their friends, were quickly

killed or made prisoners. Those who fell alive into the hands of the Genevise were hung next day as house-breakers: 67 heads were planted along the ramparts, but many more than these fell in the ditch and outside the town. The venerable Theodore Beza, at that time 80 years old, gave out from the pulpit next day the 124th Psalm, which has been sung ever since on the anniversary of the Escalade.

Jean Jacques Rousseau, son of a watchmaker of Geneva, first saw the light in a house, No. 40, Grande Rue. The accident of his being shut out of the town one evening, on his return from a walk, induced him to fly from his native town, as he feared to face his master next morning. His book, the *Emile*, was burnt, in conformity with an order of the Council of Geneva, by the common hangman, in front of the Hôtel de Ville, in 1762. The instigators of this act were Voltaire and the Council of the Sorbonne, who, by a singular coincidence, in this instance acted in unison. The Council at the same time issued a warrant for the arrest of the author.

#### *Environs of Geneva.*

*Omnibuses* run to Carouge, St. Julien, Lancy, Troinex, and Ferney, every hour, and to Vandœuvre and Sacconex 5 times a day. There is an American tramway also to Carouge.

It has been already observed that Geneva is chiefly distinguished for its beautiful situation on the margin of an enchanting lake, whose gently-sloping banks are scattered over with villas, surrounded by gardens, and looking more like English country-houses than any to be found in other parts of the Continent.

The rides, walks, and views in the vicinity are delightful, and almost endless; but the great charm of every prospect is the *Mont Blanc*, and the range of Alps of Savoy, when they deign to show themselves, which they do not, in perfect distinctness, more

than 60 times a year on an average. There cannot be a more lovely sight than that of Mont Blanc, and the surrounding Aiguilles, tinged with the pink hue which the departing sun sheds upon them in certain states of the atmosphere. One of the finest views of Mont Blanc is to be had from the garden of Baron Ad. Rothschild's villa of *Pregny*, shown by tickets, Sunday and Thursday, 12 till 3.

a. The junction of the Arve with the Rhone is well worth visiting, and is best seen either from the tongue of land between the two rivers, which is reached on foot over the wire bridge to the rt. of the Porte Neuve, along the l. bank of the Rhone by the gas-works, or from the grounds of a country-house called *Châtellaine*, or *Campagne Matthieu*, on the rt. bank of the Rhone, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond the Porte de Cornavin. On the way to it, *Les Délices*, a country-house of *Voltaire*, is passed.

The Arve, a wide torrent fed by the snows and glaciers of Mont Blanc, looks like a river of mud. The pellucid blue waters of the Rhone, driven on one side by the furious entrance of its new ally, for a long time refuse to mix with it, and the line of separation between the blue and white water is distinctly marked. At length the Arve gains the mastery; and the Rhone, once polluted, does not recover its perfect purity before reaching the sea.

b. On the S.E. side of Geneva rises the *Mont Salève*, a long line of limestone precipices, seeming to impend over the town, though it is, in reality, 5 m. off, and within the French territory. Those who are acquainted with Edinburgh may be reminded of Salisbury Crags in looking at it. The S. side of this mountain is a gentle slope, covered with verdant pasture and sprinkled with houses. The whole of this vast inclined plane, facing the Alps, is strewn over with fragments of rock, identical with that of which Mont Blanc is composed (p. lx.). The largest of these masses is 7 ft. long.

The summit of the Salève (4560 ft.), more than 3100 ft. above the lake, is frequently scaled by the inhabitants of Geneva, who make picnic parties to enjoy the view from its summit. The shortest road to it is by Carouge and Veyrier (taking the junction of the Arve on the way: there is a shorter road back, 3 m.); whence a very steep path, practicable only on foot, partly formed by steps cut in the rock, and called *Pas de l'Echelle*, leads up through a remarkable gap in the mountain to the village of Monetier (pronounced *Monté*)  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. Those who cannot walk may reach Monetier by a carriage-road, which makes a détour of 8 m. from Geneva, through the beautiful village of Mornex, at the back of the mountain. The pleasantest way is to be driven to Monetier, thence to ascend the Petit or the Grand Salève on foot, and to descend the Pas de l'Echelle on foot to Veyrier, whither the carriage may be sent round to wait for the party.

At Monetier is a comfortable stopping-place, the Hôtel and Pension Reconnaissance, commanding beautiful views, kept by civil people, and prices reasonable. From thence to the top is about an hour. Near the top are the *Châlets des Treize Arbres* (3850 ft.), so called from the presence of a few trees. The view extends S. up the valley of the Arve over the Mole to Mont Blanc; E. over a vast expanse of the lake; N. to the town of Geneva, the Rhone, and the Jura behind; W. the eye follows the valley of the Rhone as far as the gap in the Jura mountain, through which the river forces its way into France. The stony path has been superseded by a good carriage-road, made at the expense of a Genevese, Mr. Naville, whose residence, *Grange Gaby*, crowns the top of the mountain. Danger formerly arose from attempting to descend through a promising cleft or gorge, where a very steep slope ends in an abrupt precipice. For any one accustomed to mountains there is no danger whatever; but in 1853 one English gentleman was killed, and his companion

broke his thigh, in wandering about on the mountain, after losing their way. This cleft, called the *Grande Gorge*, is frequented by botanists, who there find several rare plants. The ascent was formerly difficult, but a sort of path has now been made.

c. On the S. shore of the lake, about 2 m. from Geneva, and a little to the l. of the high road to Thonon, is the *Campagne Diodati*, Lord Byron's residence in 1816, where he wrote 'Manfred,' and the third canto of 'Childe Harold.' Deodati, professor of theology, it will be remembered, was a friend and correspondent of Milton, who visited him here.

On the oppsite side, on the hill of Pregny, is the very commanding seat of Baron Rothschild, built with more magnificence than taste; fine Views from the grounds: it is visited by application at the banker Ferrier's, Place du Molard, Geneva.

d. *Ferney*, the residence of Voltaire, is situated within the French territory, about 5 m. N. of Geneva. On the way thither, near Grand Saconnex, an eminence presents one of the best points of view of Mont Blanc.

Voltaire resided for nearly 20 years at Ferney, from 1759 to 1777. He may be said to be the founder of the village, which, before his time, consisted of but 6 or 8 hovels. He collected industrious colonists, introduced useful manufactures among them, and improved his estate, of about 900 acres, by draining, &c., besides building the *Château*, which still exists, but has been so much altered that few traces of the philosopher now remain. On the l. hand, as you enter the gates, he built the *Church*, originally inscribed with the words "Deo erexit Voltaire." The *Theatre*, in which his own tragedies were acted by amateurs, has been pulled down.

The situation of Ferney is charming, in full view of the Alps and of Mont Blanc; but the windows of the house, excepting those of the Library, were turned directly away from the land-

scape. In the garden is a long berceau walk, closely arched over with clipped horn-beam—a verdant cloister, with gaps cut in it here and there, admitting a glimpse of the prospect. Here Voltaire used to walk up and down, and dictate to his secretary.

e. *Perte du Rhône*.—The excursion to the Perte du Rhône at Bellegarde, on the French frontier, may be recommended. The distance is about 16 m., and it may be reached in 1 hr. by the rly. The carriage-road from Colonges to Bellegarde is very fine. You enter

—"where the swift Rhone cleaves his way between Heights which appear as lovers who have parted."

This part of the Rhone valley was blocked up by Cæsar, to prevent the emigration of the Helvetic nation, as described in his Commentaries. This he effected by throwing up works, ramparts, ditches, and forts at suitable spots on the l. bank of the river, having previously destroyed the bridge at Geneva. He does not appear to have made a continuous wall—the banks of the river were so precipitous as to render this unnecessary; only at points where a landing or passage was practicable, there he cut ditches and threw up earthworks.

The lofty Vuache on the side of Savoy, and the huge mass of the highest part of the Jura chain, slope precipitously down to the torrent of the Rhone. The road hangs midway in this prodigious passage; and the *Fort de l'Ecluse*, the fortress which gives its name to the pass, commands this entrance of France. Infinite labour and expense have been used by the French government to strengthen this position since its destruction by the Austrians, 1814. Additional batteries have been hewn in the rock above the lower fortress, and these communicate with the guard-rooms below by a broad staircase, of more than 1000 steps, hewn inside the solid mountain. Leave may sometimes be obtained from the governor to view

the fortress; but at any rate the road passes through it, and enables the traveller to see something of its remarkable defences.

From Collonges to Bellegarde (*Hôtel de la Poste*) the road sweeps along the wild gorge through which the Rhone pours. At Bellegarde it crosses the narrow and rocky bed of the Valserine. The traveller will walk from the inn to the Perte du Rhône ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile); he will find plenty of squalid guides to show him the spot where the river, which he has accompanied from the clear cistern of its waters through the rough mountain pass, plunges at once beneath an accumulation of broken rocks which have fallen from above and covered its bed from side to side. When the waters are tolerably low, as in the spring or winter, the whole river is absorbed for a distance of 120 yards; but the Sardinian government, to facilitate the floatage of timber, &c., has blown up a considerable portion of the covering rocks and laid bare the channel. The bed of the Valserine is more picturesque, and scarcely less curious than the Perte. It is also deeply cut in the rock, but not so deep as the bed of the Rhone, consequently has to make a leap to join it. At the junction are some very picturesque mills (*Moulin de Mussel*), one of which was nearly annihilated by a falling rock, 1844. It is worth while to descend from the garden of the inn into the worn channel of this little river, which is almost dry in summer time, except where a runlet of its water burrows into the clefts and fantastic bends of the calcareous rock. The Malpertuis (p. 164) should be seen if possible.

*f.* Another pleasant excursion may be made to *d'Ivonne*, where the river Versoix takes its rise in a pretty grotto at the foot of the Jura; and people go to eat the small delicate trout which are taken in it. M. Paul Vidart's great hydropathic establishment is here. The view from the terrace of the Château d'Ivonne is very fine. The best road to go is by Coppet and Celigny (where the waterfalls should

also be visited), and to return by Ferney. The distance from Geneva to D'Ivonne is 12 m.

*g. Les Voirons*—a wooded chain of mtns. in Savoy, E. of Geneva. An inferior *Inn* at the top. Omnibus at 5 P.M., from Rue de Rive, No. 3, to La Bergue, at the foot of the mountain, in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. 3 hrs'. walk or ride to the top.

*h.* The Reuillet, a point of Mt. Jura, 5643 ft., only 11 ft. lower than the Crêt de la Neige, the highest point in the whole chain. Drive to St. Genix, and sleep at Thoiry. Next day breakfast at the chalet of Narderau, and walk along the top of the chain, descending to Gex in time for omnibus to Geneva. Take provisions. The views are very fine.

*Chamouni and the shores of Lake Lemman* may be explored in 4 days from Geneva—thus, 1st, by early steamer to Lausanne or Vevay—by 2nd steamer on to Villeneuve—in the evening by the rly. to Martigny; 2nd, by the Tête Noire or Col de Balme to Chamouni (Rte. 138); 3rd, at Chamouni; 4th, back to Geneva.

## ROUTE 55.

GENEVA TO VILLENEUVE, BY LAUSANNE,  
VEVAY, AND CHILLON. LAKE OF  
GENEVA.—RAILWAY.

6½ posts = 59 Eng. m.

	Eng. m.
Geneva.	
Coppet . . . . .	10
Rolle . . . . .	12
Morges . . . . .	9
Lausanne . . . . .	8
Vevay . . . . .	11½
Villeneuve . . . . .	9

Rly. to Bussigny and Lausanne.  
As far as Coppet it belongs to the  
Lyons and Geneva Co. From Coppet  
it belongs to the Western Rly. of  
Switzerland. The continuation of  
this line from Lausanne to Villeneuve  
and Sion was opened for traffic in  
1862. But for those who are not in a  
violent hurry a far more pleasant  
route is by

*Steamboat.*—*Steamers* leave Geneva  
and Villeneuve, at the two extre-  
mities of the lake, twice a day. They  
make the voyage from one end to  
the other in about 5 hours. The  
*steamers do not take carriages.* They  
stop to land and receive passengers at  
Coppet, Nyon, Rolle, Morges, Ouchy  
(the port of Lausanne), 3 hrs., Vevay  
4 hrs., and Villeneuve—all situated  
on the N. shore of the lake, and  
described below. Another steamer  
plies between Geneva and the towns  
on the S. (Savoy) side of the lake.  
(Rte. 57.)

*Lake Lemán, in a Calm.*

" Clear, placid Lemán! thy contrasted lake,  
With the wild world I dwelt in, is a thing  
Which warns me, with its stillness, to forsake  
Earth's troubled waters for a purer spring.  
This quiet sail is as a noiseless wing  
To waft me from distraction; once I loved  
Torn ocean's roar, but thy soft murmuring  
Sounds sweet as if a Sister's voice reproved,  
That I with stern delights should e'er have  
been so moved.

It is the hush of night, and all between  
Thy margin and the mountains, dusk, yet  
clear,  
Mellowed and mingling, yet distinctly seen,  
Save darken'd Jura, whose cap't heights  
appear  
Precipitously steep; and drawing near,  
There breathes a living fragrance from the  
shore,  
Of flowers yet fresh with childhood; on the  
ear  
Drops the light drip of the suspended oar,  
Or chirps the grasshopper one good-night carol  
more.

\* \* \* \* \*  
At intervals, some bird from out the brakes  
Starts into voice a moment, then is still.  
There seems a floating whisper on the hill,  
But that is fancy,—for the starlight dew  
All silently their tears of love instil,  
Weeping themselves away."

*Lake Lemán, in a Storm.*

" The sky is changed!—and such a change!  
Oh night,  
And storm, and darkness, ye are wondrous  
strong,  
Yet lovely in your strength, as is the light  
Of a dark eye in woman! Far along,  
From peak to peak, the rattling crags among  
Leaps the live thunder! Not from one lone  
cloud,  
But every mountain now hath found a  
tongue,  
And Jura answers, through her misty shroud,  
Back to the joyous Alps, who call to her aloud!

Now, where the swift Rhone cleaves his way  
between  
Heights which appear as lovers who have  
parted  
In hate, whose mining depths so intervene  
That they can meet no more, though broken-  
hearted!  
Though in their souls, which thus each other  
thwarted,  
Love was the very root of the fond rage  
Which blighted their life's bloom, and then  
departed:  
Itself expired, but leaving them an age  
Of years all winters,—war within themselves to  
wage.

Now, where the quick Rhone thus hath cleft  
his way, [stand:  
The mightiest of the storms hath ta'en his  
For here, not one, but many, make their  
play, [hand,  
And fling their thunder-bolts from hand to  
Flashing and cast around: of all the band.  
The brightest through these parted hills hath  
fork'd  
His lightnings,—as if he did understand,  
That in such gaps as desolation work'd,  
There the hot shaft should blast whatever  
therein lurk'd.

And this is in the night:—Most glorious  
night!  
Thou wert not sent for slumber! let me be  
A sharer in thy fierce and far delight,—



A portion of the tempest and of thee!  
 How the lit lake shines, a phosphoric sea,  
 And the big rain comes dancing to the earth!  
 And now again 't is black,—and now, the glee  
 Of the loud hills shakes with its mountain-  
 mirth,  
 As if they did rejoice o'er a young earthquake's  
 birth.

Sky, mountains, river, winds, lake, light-  
 nings! ye!  
 With night, and clouds, and thunder, and a  
 soul  
 To make these felt and feelings, well may be  
 Things that have made me watchful; the far  
 roll  
 Of your departing voices is the knoll  
 Of what in me is sleepless,—if I rest.  
 But where of ye, oh tempests! is the goal?  
 Are ye like those within the human breast?  
 Or do ye find, at length, like eagles, some high  
 nest?" *Byron.*

The Lake of Geneva, called by the Romans *Lacus Lemanus*, has nearly the shape of a half-moon, its horns being turned towards the S. It is the largest lake in Switzerland, being 55 m. long, measured close to its N. shore, and about 40 m. along its S. bank; it is 6 m. wide at the broadest part (between Rolle and Thonon), and its greatest depth (between Evian and Ouchy) is 900 ft. Its surface is about 1142 ft. above the level of the sea, but the height often varies in the year more than 50 inches, being usually lowest in the winter, between Jan. and April, and highest in Aug. and part of July and Sept., owing to the supplies then derived from the melting snows and glaciers. Besides these periodical variations, the Lake is subject to other more arbitrary changes of level, called *seiches*. This phenomenon consists of a sudden rise and fall of the water in particular parts of the lake, independently of the agency of the wind or of any other apparent cause. It is most common in the vicinity of Geneva. During these oscillations the waters sometimes rise 5 ft., though the usual increase is not more than 2; it never lasts longer than 25 minutes, but it is generally less. The cause of these *seiches* has not been explained with certainty, but they are observed to occur most commonly when the clouds are heavy and low. The lake never freezes over entirely, owing to its great depth; but in severe winters

the lower extremity is covered with ice. The sand and mud brought down by the Rhone and deposited around its mouth have caused considerable encroachments upon its upper extremity: even within the records of history *Porte Valais* stood on its margin, and its basin is reported to have originally extended upwards as far as Bex.

"*Mon lac est le premier*," are the words in which Voltaire has vaunted the beauties of the Lake of Geneva; and it must be confessed that, though it wants the gloomy sublimity of the Bay of Uri and the sunny softness of the Italian lakes, with their olive and citron groves, it has high claims to admiration. It also possesses great variety of scenery. The vine-covered slopes of Vaud contrast well with the abrupt, rocky precipices of Savoy. Near Geneva the hills subside, admitting an exquisite view of Mont Blanc, whose snowy summit, though 60 m. distant, is often reflected in its waters.

"Lake Lemman woos me with its crystal face,  
 The mirror where the stars and mountains  
 view  
 The stillness of their aspect in each trace  
 Its clear depth yields of their far height and  
 hue."

At its E. or upper extremity it extends to the very base of the high Alps, which by their close vicinity give its scenery a character of increased magnificence.

The boats on the lake are very picturesque, having lateen sails like the craft of the Mediterranean. It is generally calm, but not the dead calm of the mountain lakes; occasionally the bize, a cold E. wind, is very strong, and causes considerable motion in the steamers from Geneva until they get beyond Lausanne. The S.W. wind is described as still stronger. These are the only winds which materially affect the lake.

Among the fish of the lake trouts are rare; the Lotte, on which Rousseau's Julie makes her last repast, is described as "*une espèce de barbeau, assez fade, peu cher, et commun*."

*Railway to Lausanne*, 6 trains daily in 1½ to 2¼ hrs.



The railway embankment has been carried along the edge of the lake, thus in many places marring its beauty, and interrupting the view, from the sloping banks and houses built on them.

The first part of the road out of Geneva lies among villas and pleasure grounds not unlike English country-seats. Few spots in Europe present so many admirable sites for a dwelling as the shores of Lake Lemman in full view of Mont Blanc. At Sécheron, on the lake, Sir Robert Peel has a villa, and at *Prégny* is Baron Adolph Rothschild's superb château. After a mile or two Mont Blanc is hid behind the intervening mountains of Voiron, and does not reappear until near Nyon.

The parish of *Versoir*, through which the road passes, formerly belonged to France. The Duke de Choiseul, minister of Louis XV., irritated with some proceedings of the inhabitants of Geneva, proposed to raise a rival city at Versoir which should deprive Geneva of its trade. A pier was projected into the lake to form a port, a grand Place was laid down, streets running at right angles were marked out; but beyond this the plan was never carried into execution. Hence the verses of Voltaire :—

"À Versoir nous avons des rues,  
Mais nous n'avons pas de maisons."

A little beyond Versoir (now an inconsiderable village) we pass out of the canton of Geneva into that of Vaud.

*Coppet*—(*Inn*: Ange)—a small village of 600 Inhab., only remarkable for the *Château*, immediately behind it, but so placed as to command no view of the lake. It is now the property of Madame de Staël Vernet. It is a plain edifice, forming three sides of a square, the front towards the lake being flanked with a tower at each end. It was the residence of Madame de Staël the author, as well as of her father, the French minister Necker. There are portraits of her by *David*, of her parents M. and Madame Necker, and a marble bust of M. Rocca, Madame de Staël's second

husband. One room is pointed out as the study in which the authoress of *Corinne* composed many of her works. Her inkstand and desk are still preserved. The grounds are traversed by shady walks; and a clump of trees surrounded by a wall, in a field a little to the W. of the house, shrouds from view a sort of chapel in which Necker and his daughter are buried.

*Nyon* (*Inn*: Couronne), a town of 2682 Inhab., stands on a height; but its suburbs, through which the high road runs, extend down to the lake. It was the Roman Novidunum. From the Terrasse des Marroniers near the fine old château once the seat of the Bailli de Nyon, there is a very fine view.

[An excellent carriage-road ascends the Jura from this in zigzags to St. Cergues, from which the *Dôle*, the highest summit of this part of the chain of the Jura, can be most easily ascended. Mules and guides can be procured at the small *Inn* of St. Cergues, which affords tolerable accommodation for a night. The ascent requires about 3 hours; but it is neither fatiguing nor dangerous. "Perhaps there is no mountain in Switzerland which better repays the traveller for his fatigue, and no view more wonderfully extensive and admirably diversified than that which it commands."]

*Rolle*. (*Inns*: Couronne; Tête Noire.) The hills around this village are covered with vineyards, producing a tolerable wine. One of the best *Vaudois* wines is grown on the slope between Rolle and Aubonne, called *La Côte*.

On the opposite shore of the lake is discerned the Gulf of Thonon, and the snowy head of Mont Blanc peering over the mountains of the *Chablais*. Further on the rocks of Meillerie and the entrance of the *Valais* appear.

[A few miles above Rolle is *Aubonne*—(*Inns*: Couronne; Lion d'Or)—an ancient town of 1667 Inhab., with an Eastern-looking *Castle*. Byron says of it—"The entrance and bridge something like that of Durham: it

commands by far the fairest view of the lake of Geneva (and of Mont Blanc behind it); a grove on the height of very noble trees. Here Tavernier, the Eastern traveller, bought (or built) the château, because the site resembled and equalled that of Erivan, a frontier city of Persia. Here he finished his voyages." The Church contains the monument of the brave French Admiral Duquesne, the conqueror of De Ruyter—the chastiser of the Turkish and Algerine corsairs, whose services Louis XIV. refused to recompense, and whose body that monarch for a long time denied to his son,—exiled to Aubonne by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, because Duquesne was a Protestant, and refused to adopt the king's religion. Aubonne is less than 3 m. distant from the lake. On the hills sloping down towards the lake called *La Côte*, between Aubonne and Nyon, grows the best Swiss wine, called *le Moulart*.

The *Signal de Bougy*—above Aubonne, 2730 ft. above the sea-level—is a celebrated point of view.]

*Morges Stat.* (Inn: La Couronne.) Close to the small port of this little town of 2800 Inhab. rises the picturesque *Castle of Wufflens*, distinguished by its tall white square donjon and group of minor turrets, built of brick, with deep machicolations, probably in the 13th cent. It is said to have been founded by Queen Bertha in the 10th cent. The carriage-road continues near the shore of the lake. The rly. turns inland to

*Bussigny Junct. Stat.* Here the rly. from Yverdon (Rte. 49) and Berne joins. Most of the trains from Geneva to Yverdon go on to Lausanne, and then back again to Bussigny.

The distant view of Lausanne, seated on sloping hills and surmounted by its cathedral and castle, is pleasing. Between it and the lake, at the distance of  $\frac{1}{4}$  m., stands the village of

*Ouchy*, which may be termed the port of Lausanne. (Inns: A very large house, the *Hôtel de Beaurivage*, under the management of Mr. Alex.

Rufenacht, formerly landlord of the H. des Bergues at Geneva;—Ancre;—*Hôtel and Pension Bachoffner*, good; both houses kept by an English landlady. Families may live here *en pension* at the rate of 30 or 40 fr. a week each person.) Lord Byron wrote the 'Prisoner of Chillon' in the Ancre inn, in the short space of *two days*, during which he was detained here by bad weather, June, 1816: "thus adding one more deathless association to the already immortalized localities of the lake."

*Lausanne Stat.*, midway between Ouchy and Lausanne. Omnibuses run in connexion with the steamers—fare  $\frac{1}{2}$  fr., or 1 fr. with luggage.

LAUSANNE. (Inns: Faucon, very good; *Hôtel Gibbon*, finer position, good and clean, but bustling; *Hôtel Richemont*, near the rly. stat., a Pension; \**Bellevue*, quiet, reasonable, and finely situated; *Hôtel Belvedere*, "comfortable"—C. B.: all these are first-class hotels. 2nd Class Inns: *Raisin*, *Trois Suisses*. *Hôtel du Grand Pont*, in the town, commercial.)

Lausanne, capital of the canton Vaud, contains 20,515 Inhab. (670 Roman Cath.). The Pays de Vaud (Germ. Waadtland) was originally subject to the Dukes of Savoy, but, having been conquered by the Bernese, remained tributary to that republic for 2½ centys., until 1798, when it acquired its independence, which, however, it retained in 1814 only by the payment of a large sum of money, and then became a member of the Swiss Confederation. The constitution was rendered more democratic by changes in 1830 and 1845; it is now one of the cantons the most imbued with the revolutionary opinions common on the Continent. The language spoken is French. 200,000 Inhab.; 192,000 Prot. The town, with its high roofs, castle, and cathedral, is itself picturesque, and is most picturesquely situated on the lower slope of the *Mont Jorat*, which sinks gradually down to the lake, intersected by several ravines, giving it the form of distinct eminences. From this cause the old streets

ranging over broken ground are a series of ups and downs: many are very steep. A causeway and viaduct, called from its builder *Pont Pichard*, or *Grand Pont*, have been made to span the valley from the front of the Hôtel Gibbon, and a winding road, carried on a level along its E. bank, renders the centre of the town and cathedral much more accessible than formerly.

The Castle and Cathedral are on an eminence in the old walled town, which is still called the Cité. Starting from H. Gibbon, and keeping to the rt. for a short distance, any of the streets up the hill to the l. will lead to

*The Cathedral* (at the foot of the flight of steps leading to it from the market-place ask for the keys of the door, kept at the sexton's house, No. 5), one of the finest and largest Gothic churches in Switzerland, 333 ft. long, 61 ft. high, was founded A.D. 1000, but the existing building dates from 1275. The interior is singular in its construction, and very beautiful, though much altered by modern arrangements. The circular apse, at the eastern end, is singular and complete, both as a continuation of the nave and of the aisles. The Triforium Gallery is carried continuously along the nave, the transept, and the apse; above it is a second gallery, equally complete, but it is arranged in compartments of triple arches, for the purpose of enabling it to conform to the openings of the windows.

*Obs.* the W. and S. portals, the rose window in the transept, and portions of the fine carved stalls removed from the choir after a fire in 1823.

Among the monuments within the church are a mailed effigy of Otho of Granson;—the tomb of Victor Amédée VIII. (Voltaire's "Bizarre Amédée"), who was Duke of Savoy, Bishop of Geneva, and Pope under the title of Felix V., but resigned in succession all these dignities, preferring to end his days as a monk in the convent of Ripaille, on the opposite shore of the lake: it is much

mutilated; of Bp. W. de Menthonex;—of Harriet Stratford Canning, by Bartolini;—of the mother of the Prussian Minister von Stein. Most of these monuments were foolishly removed from their proper places in 1828.

There is a beautiful view from the terrace at the W. end of the Cathedral, partially obstructed by the present prison, formerly the Archbishop's palace.

Ascending again to the N. of the Cathedral, we reach the *Château*, or *Castle*, a picturesque, massive square tower with 4 turrets at the angles. It was originally the residence of the Bishops of Lausanne, but is now converted into public offices, and entirely modernised internally. Two rooms, however, have been restored—not in the best taste—and are shown.

Passing out under the old archway of the Château to the N., you may either ascend to the *Signal*, which lies straight before you, or turn to the rt., and walk along the road at the side of the ravine of the *Flon*—a walk which shows the picturesque buildings of Lausanne to advantage—and so return to the town. The large handsome building on the S. of the Cité is the Hospital.

In the *College*, founded 1587, not far from the Cathedral, is a *Cantonal Museum*, in which are some objects of interest,—such as a collection of minerals from Bex and a model of the salt-mines there. It is not deficient in the other branches of natural history. A specimen of the *silurus glanis*, one of the largest fresh-water fishes, came from the lake of Morat. Many *antiquities* discovered within the canton, at Aventicum, and Celtic remains from the Swiss Lakes and the borders of the Lake Lemman, also some relics of Napoleon, his Waterloo saddle, fowling-piece, &c., are preserved here.

There is also a *Picture Gallery* (*Musée Arlaud*) opposite the Corn Exchange, containing modern and ancient paintings, works of *Calame*, *Diday*, &c.

The *Blind Asylum*, founded by the

late Mr. Haldimand, an Englishman of Swiss descent, is admirably managed by Mr. Hirzel.

The house of Gibbon, in which he completed the *History of Rome*, was in the lower part of the town, behind the church of St. Francis, and on the right of the road leading down to Ouchy. Both it and the garden have been entirely changed. The wall of the Hôtel Gibbon occupies the site of his summer-house, and the *berceau* walk has been destroyed to make room for the garden of the hotel, but the terrace overlooking the lake, a lime and a few acacias, remain.

"It was on the day, or rather the night, of the 27th of June, 1787, between the hours of 11 and 12, that I wrote the last line of the last page in a summer-house in my garden. After laying down my pen I took several turns in a *berceau*, or covered walk of acacias, which commands a prospect of the country, the lake, and the mountains. The air was temperate, the sky was serene, the silver orb of the moon was reflected from the waves, and all nature was silent." *Gibbon's Life.*

The *English Church service* is performed in an English chapel built by the late Mr. Haldimand in his grounds on the road to Ouchy.

The *Post and Telegraph office* is in the Place St. François, near H. Gibbon. Hignou and Co., 7, Rue de Bourg, have an excellent *Reading-room* well supplied with English papers, and a circulating library.

*Railways* to Yverdon (Rte. 49), Geneva, and Basle; to Freiburg and Berne (Rte. 45). The Stat. is below the town, on the road to Ouchy.

*Steamboats* touch at Ouchy, the port of Lausanne, on their way to either extremity of the lake.

The neighbourhood of Lausanne is famous for the number and beauty of the walks which it presents. Here, and throughout the wine-growing districts bordering the lake, strangers must beware of the alleys and narrow

walks between walls or high hedges, which abound in every direction. Appearing to lead up a hill, or to some favourable point of view, they are constantly closed at the end by a gate, with a notice against trespassers. The law is severely enforced against any one entering a vineyard without the owner's permission. Partial and pleasing glimpses of the lake are obtained from the *terraces* within the town, and from the fine boulevard of *Montbenon*, just outside the walls, on the old road to Geneva; but far more extensive and beautiful prospects are presented from the heights above the town. The best spot for an extensive survey is the elevated platform called the *Signal*, accessible to carriages. It lies nearly N. of the town, directly behind the Château. Near it is the extensive forest of Sauvabellin (*Silva Belini*), in which it is said the Druids once worshipped the god Bel, and thence its name. There are a great number of country-seats in the vicinity; that of *Vernant* is highly praised; its grounds have the character of an English park, with the Alps and the lake in addition. Mont Blanc is not visible from the Signal, but may be seen from the top of the Jorat, on the road to Berne.

About 2 m. out of Lausanne, beyond the Calvaire, on the Berne road, is the *Cemetery of Pierre de Plain*. John Philip Kemble, the tragedian, is buried within it. His tomb is a plain flat slab, one of 9 or 10 in a row, all English graves. The house where he died is called Beau Site; the plantations were all laid out by himself.

A Celtic burial-ground has been discovered at Bel Air, near Cheseaux, 6 m. N.W. of Lausanne.

The Rly. to Vevay runs along the slope of the Jorat, here covered with vineyards (Lavaux), industriously terraced high up the hills extending to Vevay. Near Vevay, the gorge of the Rhone appears in sight, overlooked by the snowy peaks of the Dent du Midi.

At Pully an inferior sort of coal, abounding in sulphur, is dug from a mine in the hill-side.

11 m. *Vevay Stat.* (Germ. *Vivis*). *Inns*: Hôtel Monnet, or Trois Couronnes, close to the lake: one of the best inns in Switzerland, comfortable and clean: a very large house; *reading-room*; charges not out of proportion with the comfort; frequently full. From Oct. 15 to May 1 you may live here moderately *en pension*. H. du Lac Lemman, small, clean, and comfortable: view over lake. Lodging 1 fr. 50 c.; dinner 3 frs.; breakfast 1 to 2 frs.; servants 50 c. The Château de Vevay is a respectable boarding-house. Trois Rois. Above the town, in the village of Chardonnas, is a good and reasonable pension, H. Bellevue.

*Vevay*, the Roman *Vibiscum*, is the second town in canton Vaud, and has 6600 Inhab. It is principally distinguished for the exceeding beauty of its situation, at the mouth of the gorge of the Veveyse, on the margin of the Lake Lemman, at a point where the scenery of its banks is perhaps most beautiful. The writings of Rousseau have contributed not a little to its celebrity in this respect.

From the little terrace at the end of the market-place, or from the roof of the Trois Couronnes, or, better still, from the villa called Hauteville, about 2 m. above Vevay, the eye surveys on the E. the village of Clarens, Montreux, Chillon; beyond it Villeneuve and the gorge of the Rhone, backed by the gigantic Alps of the Valais, the Dent de Midi, and Pain de Sucre, Mont Velan (neighbours of the Great St. Bernard); while on the opposite shore of the lake rise the rocks of Meillerie, surmounted by the peaks of the Dent d'Oche, and the village of St. Gingough, at the foot of the mountains. The walks in the immediate neighbourhood are somewhat dull, as the whole country consists of vineyards, surrounded by stone walls.

In the *Ch. of St. Martin*, a little

above the town, situated amidst trees and vineyards, and used only in summer (date 1438), Ludlow the regicide is buried, as well as Broughton, who read the sentence of death to Charles I. They died here in exile, a price having been set upon their heads; and repeated applications were made to the canton of Berne to deliver them up, which the government very properly refused to accede to. *Ludlow's house* still exists on the road to La Tour de Peilz; he placed over his doorway this inscription—"Omne solum forti patria." The tablet is removed to England, and his house is now the Pension Delessert. Most of the houses have had new fronts added towards the lake. *Pleasant walks* and views from the gardens of Mr. Couvreur: the Park of *Hauteville* 1½ m. N.E.

The *English Ch. service* is performed on Sundays in St. Clair at 11 and 3.30.

*Physician*.—Dr. Henri Curchod, speaks English.

C. Prost, watch and chronometer maker and bijoutier, is in good repute here.

Many *Excursions* may be made from Vevay by land or water: *a*, to the *Château of Hauteville*, 1½ m. N.E., fine view and pretty grounds; *b*, 2½ m. still higher the ancient *Castle of Blonay*, which has belonged to the same family 700 years; *c*, ascent of the *Pleyour* or *Pleiades*, 4213 ft., about 6 m.; *d*, Clarens (see below); *e*, Montreux and Chillon. Chillon is a morning drive. A pleasant shady path or char-road, interrupted at times by the rly., on the slope of the hills, above the dusty highway, leads in 6½ m. to Montreux and Chillon. (The route may be varied by taking the upper road.)

Boats at 1 fr. the hour.

*Omnibus* from Vevay to Chexbres Stat. to meet the trains from Berne and Freyburg. Ascent in 1½ hr.

The railroad from Vevay to Freyburg by Bulle is described Rte. 45.

The *wines* of the neighbourhood of Vevay, especially of the sunny district extending hence to Lausanne, and called Lavaux, enjoy a consider-

able reputation for Swiss wines. The Romans are believed to have first planted the vine on these hills; and the discovery of a stone inscribed "*Libero Patri Colliensi*" proves that they had erected a temple to Father Bacchus at Collium, a little village now called Cully, on the margin of the lake, between Vevay and Lausanne.

A society or guild of high antiquity, called *l'Abbaye des Vignerons*, exists at Vevay to promote the cultivation of the vine; and for this purpose it despatches every spring and autumn "experts," qualified persons, to survey all the vineyards of the district, and upon their report and testimony it rewards the most skilful and industrious vinedressers with medals and pruning-hooks (*serpes d'honneur*) as prizes.

In accordance with ancient custom which is possibly a relic of pagan superstition, this society celebrates once in 15 or 20 years a festival called *la Fête des Vignerons*. As many as 600 or 700 persons took part in the last festival, and a ballet-master of the French opera was employed to drill and instruct the rustics in dancing. The last anniversaries were in 1833, 1851, and 1865.

The beautiful path from Vevay or Montreux over the Pass of Jaman, and the road thence to Thun, in Rte. 42.

The attractions of the climate and scenery of the N.E. shore of Lake Leman, and the cheapness of living, have caused its hills and slopes to be scattered over with hotels, pensions, and boarding-houses almost numberless; many of them pleasant residences for the invalid, who may here take a course of grapes (*cure de raisin*), or of goats whey (*cure de petit lait*). The grape cure begins in Sept. and lasts about 4 weeks.

About a mile out of Vevay the hamlet of La Tour de Peilz, with a castle built at the water-side in the 13th century, is passed.

3½ m. *Clarens* (¼ hr. by rail or steamer from Vevay Stat.), so sentimentally described by Rousseau in the *Nouvelle*

*Héloïse*. It commands certainly one of the finest views over the lake—the mountains of the Rhone valley and of the opposite shore, but in itself is a poor village, far less attractive than many of its neighbours, and it probably owes its celebrity to a well-sounding name, which fitted it for the pages of a romance. Rousseau's admirers have puzzled themselves with endeavouring to identify the localities, though he has himself stated that they are "*grossièrement altérés*." The spot on which the beautiful "*bosquet de Julie*" is sought for is now a potato-field. Byron says that the trees were cut down by the monks of St. Bernard, and lavishes some unworthy and undeserved abuse upon those hospitable ecclesiastics; but he has forgotten to ask whether the bosquet really ever had any existence except in Rousseau's imagination. Byron, indeed, viewed the spot with a poet's eye, and the exquisite beauty of the surrounding scenery, which has been accurately described by Rousseau, called up all the poet's enthusiasm and inspiration.

"Clarens! sweet Clarens, birthplace of deep Love!

Thine air is the young breath of passionate thought:

Thy trees take root in Love; the snows above  
The very glaciers have his colours caught,  
And sunset into rose-hues sees them wrought  
By rays which sleep there lovingly: the rocks,  
The permanent crags, tell here of Love, who sought

In them a refuge from the worldly shocks  
Which stir and sting the soul with hope that  
woos, then mocks.

"Clarens! by heavenly feet thy paths are trod—

Undying Love's, who here ascends a throne  
To which the steps are mountains; where the god

Is a pervading life and light,—so shown  
Not on those summits solely, nor alone  
In the still cave and forest; o'er the flower  
His eye is sparkling, and his breath hath blown,

His soft and summer-breath, whose tender power

Passes the strength of storms in their most desolate hour.

"All things are here of him; from the black pines,

Which are his shade on high, and the loud roar  
Of torrents, where he listeneth, to the vines  
Which slope his green path downward to the shore,



Where the bow'd waters meet him, and adore,  
Kissing his feet with murmurs; and the wood,  
The covert of old trees, with trunks all hoar,  
But light leaves, young as joy, stands where it  
stood,

Offering to him and his a populous solitude—

"A populous solitude of bees and birds,  
And fairy-form'd and many-colour'd things,  
Who worship him with notes more sweet than  
words,

And innocently open their glad wings,  
Fearless and full of life: the gush of springs,  
And fall of lofty fountains, and the bend  
Of stirring branches, and the bud which  
brings

The swiftest thought of beauty, here extend,  
Mingling, and made by Love, unto one mighty  
end.

"'T was not for fiction chose Rousseau this spot,  
Peopling it with affections; but he found  
It was the scene which passion must allot  
To the mind's purified beings; 't was the  
ground

Where early Love his Psyche's zone unbound,  
And hallow'd it with loveliness: 't is lone,  
And wonderful, and deep, and hath a sound,  
And sense, and sight of sweetness; here the  
Rhône

Hath spread himself a couch, the Alps have  
rear'd a throne."

In the ch.yard of Clarens (fine views) is buried Vinet the divine (d. 1847). In the same place is a monument by the sculptor Imhof.

The swelling hills and vine-clad slopes, which form the banks of the lake nearly all the way from Geneva, here give place to beetling crags and woody precipices rising abruptly from the water's edge. The road sweeps in curves round the retired bays at their feet.

*Vernex.* Montreux Stat. H. du Cygne, good: pension, 4 fr.

*Montreux.* H. de Montreux. English service on Sundays at the parish church. One of a group of villages widely scattered over the hill-side.

This village, seated on an eminence (1.) above the road, with its church spire a little apart from its houses, is much prettier in itself and in its situation than Clarens. It abounds in *Pensions* long established, and much frequented by foreigners. The best of these is the Pension Vaultier, in the village of Montreux, very well kept; another which is well recommended is the Hôtel des Alpes, at the hamlet of Territet. At Veytaux, an increas-

ing place, is also the H. des Alpes, a large edifice. The usual charge at these pensions is 5 fr. a day; in some even less.

"It is celebrated as the most sheltered spot on the banks of the lake of Geneva, and the remarkable salubrity of its climate renders it desirable winter-quarters for invalids who cannot cross the Alps. The statistical researches of Sir F. d'Ivernois have shown that Montreux is the place in the world where there is the smallest proportion of deaths and of imprudent marriages."—R.

At *Glion*, 2800 ft. above the sea,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. drive, above Montreux, in a bracing situation for invalids, two hotels and pensions have been established. The largest and best situated of these is called the *Rigi Vaudois*, a new house (1867), 100 beds; comfortable, with salon, smoking-room, newspapers, resident chaplain—bed and board 7 frs. a day; H. du Midi (Reuteler), good; charge 6 frs. a day, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  fr. for service.

*Veytaux Stat.* (Inn et Pension Bonnivard). Close to this stat., about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Montreux, stands the picturesque and renowned *Castle of Chillon* (Hotel and Pension Bonnivard is well spoken of), on an isolated rock nearly surrounded by deep water, but within a stone's throw of the shore and of the road, with which it communicates by a wooden bridge. It was built in 1238 by Amedeus IV. of Savoy, and was long used as a state prison, where, among other victims, many of the early reformers were immured. When Byron, in the 'Prisoner of Chillon,' described the sufferings of an imaginary captive, he was not acquainted with the history of the *real* prisoner, Bonnivard, prior of St. Victor, who, having rendered himself obnoxious to the Duke of Savoy by his exertions to free the Genevese from the Savoyard yoke, was seized by the Duke's emissaries, and secretly carried off to this castle. For 6 long years he was buried in its deepest dungeon, on a level with the surface of the lake.



The ring by which he was attached to one of the pillars still remains, and the stone floor at its base is worn by his constant pacing to and fro. Byron afterwards wrote the sonnet on Bonnivard, from which the following lines are taken:—

‘Chillon! thy prison is a holy place,  
And thy sad floor an altar; for’t was trod  
Until his very steps have left a trace  
Worn, as if the cold pavement were a sod,  
By Bonnivard! May none those marks efface!  
For they appeal from tyranny to God.”

At length, in 1536, the Swiss wrested the Pays de Vaud from the hands of Charles V. of Savoy. Chillon was the last place which held out for him; but an army of 7000 Bernese besieging it by land, while the galleys of the Genevese assaulted it by water, soon compelled it to surrender, and Bonnivard, with other captives, was set free. The changes which had occurred during the years of his imprisonment almost realised the legend of the Seven Sleepers. He had left Geneva a Roman Catholic state, and dependent on the Duke of Savoy; he found her free, and a republic, openly professing the reformed faith.

The castle is now converted into a magazine for military stores; but the interior of the building is well preserved and worth exploring, and the chapel is particularly interesting. Strangers are readily conducted over other parts of it, and (independently of the associations connected with the building) will find much to interest them in it. There is the potence, a beam, black with age, extended across one of the vaults, to which the condemned were formerly hung. The *oubliette* is also shown, whose only entrance was by a trap-door in the floor above. There is a small spiral staircase of three steps; the prisoner found no fourth step, and was precipitated to a depth of 80 feet. The dungeon of Bonnivard is airy and spacious, consisting of two aisles, almost like the crypt of a church; its floor and one side are formed by the living rock, and it is lighted by several windows, through which the sun’s light passes by reflection from the surface of the

lake up to the roof, transmitting partly also the blue colour of the waters. Formerly it was subdivided into small cells by partition walls between the pillars. Byron inscribed his name on one of the pillars, and his example has been followed by many others, as Dickens, &c., but it is far more lastingly associated with the spot.

“Lake Lemman lies by Chillon’s walls;  
A thousand feet in depth below  
Its massy waters meet and flow;  
Thus much the fathom-line was sent  
From Chillon’s snow-white battlement (??)  
Which round about the wave enthrals;  
A double dungeon wall and wave  
Have made—and like a living grave  
Below the surface of the lake  
The dark vault lies wherein we lay;  
We heard it ripple night and day.  
In Chillon’s dungeons deep and old  
There are seven columns massy and grey,  
Dim with a dull, imprison’d ray,  
A sunbeam which hath lost its way,  
And through the crevice and the cleft  
Of the thick wall is fallen and left,  
Creeping o’er the floor so damp,  
Like a marsh’s meteor lamp.”

It is by this castle that Rousseau has fixed the catastrophe of his Héloïse, in the rescue of one of her children by Julie from the water; the shock of which, and the illness produced by the immersion, is the cause of her death.

Between Chillon and Villeneuve, 10 minutes’ walk from either, and a little above the lake, stands the *Hôtel Byron*, a large and well-managed hotel and pension, table-d’hôte liberal, and great cleanliness and civility; rooms lofty and airy. Hotel prices for passing travellers: charge for pension, 7½ fr. a day in summer, 5½ fr. in winter. This is the best stopping-place at the E. end of the lake. There are many delightful walks and rides in the neighbourhood.

The road to the hotel, from the Villeneuve Stat., crosses the rly. by a bridge, alongside which the rivulet Tinière is conveyed in an aqueduct. The thickness of the delta formed by this little stream, through which the rly. passes in a cutting, is cited as a proof of the antiquity of man. Not only has the entire delta been deposited by that rivulet, but it has also been equably deposited, as

may be seen by the regularity exhibited in the rly. section.

*Villeneuve Stat.* (*Inns*: H. du Port, on the lake, clean, and low charges; H. Victoria, at the stat.) is an ancient walled town of 1480 Inhab. (*Pennilucus* of the Romans), situated at the E. extremity of the lake, where the road quits its borders to enter the valley of the Rhone.

About a mile from Villeneuve lies a small island, one of three in the lake: it is thus mentioned by Byron in the 'Prisoner of Chillon':—

" And then there was a little isle,  
Which in my very face did smile,  
The only one in view;  
A small green isle, it seem'd no more,  
Scarce broader than my dungeon-floor;  
But in it there were three tall trees,  
And o'er it blew the mountain-breeze,  
And by it there were waters flowing,  
And on it there were young flowers growing,  
Of gentle breath and hue."

The valley of the Rhone opens with scenery of great grandeur, the mountains around being varied and highly picturesque. The river flows through a flat alluvial deposit, formed by its own deposit, but drainage and other improvements have redeemed it from the state of a barren and unwholesome morass. The encroachments of the land upon the lake, even within the period of historical record, have been very great. Port Valais, Portus Valesiæ of the Romans, in their time stood on the margin of the lake, but is now more than a mile and a half inland; the intervening tract has been gained since. The Rhone itself rushes along, in summer burdened with mud, very unlike the torrent of azure and crystal which bursts out of the lake at Geneva. Upon this plain, at the mouth of the valley of the Rhone, Divico, the first Helvetian chief mentioned in history, defeated, B.C. 107 (the 646th year of Rome), the Roman forces under Lucius Cassius, slaying their general and compelling his army to pass under the yoke.

The top of the mountain above *Yvorne* was thrown down by an earthquake, 1584. A wine of some reputation in Switzerland now grows on the slope.

It is worth while to go out at night and see the process of catching trout in the torrents, affluents of the Rhone, by means of a lantern and knife. The fisherman enters the water up to his middle, furnished with an oval lantern, water-tight, and having a long tube projecting from its top, which serves both as a handle and to convey air to the flame. This he plunges into the water; and when the fish, attracted by the light, approach, he slowly raises it towards the surface, until the trout, which follow, come within reach, when he deals them a deadly blow with the knife, which sends them dead to the bottom, to reappear in a few minutes and be thrown into a basket which the man carries behind him. In this way a considerable number of fish are caught.

## ROUTE 56.

### VILLENEUVE TO SION, BY MARTIGNY.— RAIL.

	Miles. hrs. min.		
Villeneuve to			
Bex . . . . .	18	0	35
St. Maurice . . . . .	—	0	25
Martigny Stat. . . . .	11	0	44
Sion . . . . .	18	0	50
	44	2	34

This rly. will open direct rly. communication from Paris by Geneva or Basle to the foot of the Simplon, whenever the section from Sierre to Brieg is completed. The rly. is far preferable to the hot, monotonous, and dusty road up the Rhone valley.

*Villeneuve* has been described Rte. 55.

From Villeneuve the rly. goes through the flat valley of the Rhone, passing partly through fertile and

well-cultivated fields, overshadowed by fine walnut-trees: the views up the ravines to the l. are fine.

*Aigle Stat.*—(*Inns*: Beau Site, by the stat.; H. Victoria, very good)—a village of 1650 Inhab. (*Aquileia*), on the Grande Eau. Black marble is quarried near this. The lovely Val des Ormonds opens behind Aigle. (See Rte. 43.)

*Ollon St. Tryphon Stat.* Near this rises out of the valley of the Rhone a tower, 60 ft. high, of Roman origin.

*Bex Stat.* (pronounced *Bey*)—*Inns*: l'Union; H. des Bains: neither very good: they comprise boarding-houses and establishments of baths, supplied with salt water and mother liquor from the salt-works, which cause Bex to be resorted to as a watering-place in summer. 4½ frs. a day for not less than a week, 3 fr. a day in winter for not less than a month, but wax-lights extra;—Le Crochet, moderate. Guides, horses, and chars-à-banc for excursions among the mountains may be hired here.

Charpentier, the naturalist, is buried in the cemetery of Bex, his tombstone a boulder.

Bex, a village of 3000 Inhab., situated on the high road to the Simplon, is chiefly remarkable for its *Salt Mines* and *Salt Works*. Salt has been obtained from brine-springs here since the middle of the 16th century. For a long time they belonged to a merchant family of Augsburg named Zobel, but they are now the property of the government of the canton. Down to 1823 the brine-springs alone furnished the salt, and they were gradually failing, when M. Charpentier suggested the plan of driving shafts and galleries into the mountain in search of rock-salt. The result was the discovery of a large and rich vein of the mineral, which has been traced for a distance of 4000 ft. and for a height of 600 ft., varying in thickness from 2 ft. to 50 ft.; and the annual produce of salt is now augmented to 20,000 or 30,000 quintals. Strangers arriving at Bex commonly pay a visit to the mines, which are situated about 3 m. off in the valley of La Gryonne.

A carriage-road leads through beautiful scenery to Devins, where are the boiling-houses and evaporating-sheds. Hence you ascend on foot to the *Salt-mine*, which you enter with a guide. The salt is obtained either from the brine-springs, six or seven of which, of various degrees of strength, burst forth in different parts of the interior of the mountain, or from the rock-salt, which, after being extracted by the help of gunpowder, is broken into pieces, thrown into large reservoirs, called *dessaloirs*, cut in the anhydrite rock (sulphate of lime without water) in the interior of the mountain, and there dissolved in water. Each reservoir is usually filled with water 3 times. The 2 first solutions (*lessivages*) furnish a liquor with 25 or 26 per cent. of salt; the 3rd is much weaker, having only 5 or 6 per cent. The brine, either from the sources or from these reservoirs, containing above 20 per cent. of salt, is conveyed in pipes made of fir-wood at once to the boiling-house (*maison de cuite*); that which is less strong must be subjected to the process of graduation in the long buildings or sheds, open at the sides, which are passed at Bexvieux and Devins, between Bex and the mines. These evaporating-houses, or *maisons de graduation*, are filled up to the roof with stacks of fagots of thorn-wood, over which the salt water, after being raised to the roof by pumps, is allowed to trickle drop by drop. The separation of the water in passing through colanders, and its exposure to the atmosphere as it falls, produce rapid evaporation of the watery particles, while the gypsum dissolved in it adheres to the twigs, and crystallizes around them. The water is thus made to ascend and descend several times; it becomes stronger each time, and at length is brought to the condition of saturated brine, fit for boiling in the salt-pans. It will easily be perceived how much fuel is thus spared by not subjecting the weak solution to the fire at first.

The principal mines are those called *Du Fondement* and *Du Bouillet*; the latter

contains a gallery driven horizontally into the mountain for 6636 ft., 7½ ft. high and 5 ft. wide. At 400 ft. from its entrance is the round *reservoir*, 80 ft. in diameter and 10 ft. deep, excavated in the rock, without any support to its roof. In it the weak water is collected, which requires to undergo the process of graduation. A little farther on is another irregular reservoir, 7933 ft. in extent, supported by pillars, and destined to hold the stronger brine fit for the salt-pans without undergoing any intermediate process.

Many beautiful minerals are obtained from the salt-mines of Bex—such as very clear crystals of selenite, muriacite, anhydrite, &c.

It occupies ½ a day to visit the salt-mines. The neighbourhood of Bex abounds in *pensions* and little mountain *Inns*, where fine scenery, pure air, and tolerable living are obtained at a very cheap rate. That of \*Mont-châlet, 1½ m. above the town, on the way to the salt-works, of Madame Bernard above Frenières, the Châlet Amiguet at Chésières, the house of Madame Rosen at Ollon, besides those hereafter noticed, all deserve to be mentioned.

[Many interesting expeditions may be made from Bex. One of these, by the Col de la Croix to les Iles, at the head of the Val des Ormonds, passes by Grion, where there is a rustic *Inn*, and the *Châlet de Villard*, a pension, recommended for its beautiful position and good accommodation, not, however, equal to that at the Hôtel des Diablerets. (See Rte. 43.) Another interesting excursion is to the Col de Cheville, at the foot of the Diablerets. (Rte. 58.) Starting early from Bex a practised mountaineer would find an interesting excursion by ascending to the small glacier de *Martinet*, below the topmost perpendicular crags of the *Dent de Morcles* (9513 ft.) In favourable weather a magnificent view of the Alps would be obtained.]

The Railroad, leaving Bex, approaches the Rhone, and crossing it joins the Savoy Rly. from Bouveret and the S. side of Lake Geneva (Rte.

57), near a spot where the valley is almost closed by a rocky barrier of mountains.

— “Journeying upward by the Rhone,  
That there came down a torrent from the Alps,  
I enter'd where a key unlocks a kingdom :  
The mountains closing, and the road, the river  
Filling the narrow space.” *Rogers.*

The *Railway* has now to be added to these to complete the scene presented to the traveller at the old *Bridge of St. Maurice*, which spans the rapid river with one bold arch 70 ft. wide, leaning for support on the rt. side upon the *Dent de Morcles*, and on the l. upon the *Dent du Midi*, whose bases are pushed so far forward as barely to leave room for the river.

The bridge, erroneously attributed to the Romans, is not older than the 15th century, but may possibly rest on Roman foundations. It unites the canton Vaud with the canton Valais; and a gate at one end, now removed, formerly served to close the passage up and down: a circumstance alluded to in the lines of Rogers. Fortifications were erected by the Swiss in 1832 and 1847, above the road, to defend the pass.

No one can cross the bridge of St. Maurice without being struck with the change in the condition of the inhabitants of the two cantons. The neatness and industry of the Vaudois are exchanged, within the space of a few hundred yards, for filth and beggary, equally apparent in the persons and habitations of the Valaisans. Their physical condition is lamentable; no part of Switzerland is afflicted to a greater extent with the maladies of goitre and crétinism (§ 18), and the victims of them shock the traveller's sight at every step.

The *Railway* is carried past the old bridge through a tunnel in the rock, and reaches

2½ m. *St. Maurice Junct. Stat.*, the first stat. of the *Ligne d'Italie Rly.*, which is to connect Geneva with the foot of the Simplon pass by the S. side of the lake. Now open as far as *Sierre*. Passengers to and from Bex change carriages here.

N.B.—In taking rly. tickets at

Martigny or St. Maurice for Vevay, unless you specify "par Bex" you will be sent to Bouvaret, and thence, "par le Lac," across to Vevay by steamer.

*St. Maurice*—(Inn: \*l'Union)—a town of 1050 Inhab., occupying the site of the Roman Agaunum, squeezed in between the mountain and the l. bank of the Rhone. It owes its present name to the tradition that the Theban Legion, under the command of St. Maurice, suffered martyrdom here by order of Maximian, A.D. 302, because they refused to abjure Christianity.

The *Abbey*, the oldest Christian foundation among the Alps, established in the 4th century, founded in honour of *St. Maurice*, and endowed by Sigismond, King of Burgundy, was for many centuries one of the most celebrated of abbeys, and the town itself was the capital of one of the Burgundian kingdoms. In the *Treasury* are preserved (if not removed lately?) an agate cameo cup of antique Greek art, and a bottle or ampoule of Saracenic workmanship, presented by Charlemagne; a crosier of gold, in the shape of a spire, the niches of it filled with figures an inch high, most elaborately worked; a chalice, given by Bertha Queen of Burgundy, and several besides, of a very early date. The *Church* was much damaged by fire in the 17th cent., and has been badly restored, but the tower is unaltered, and several Roman inscriptions are built into its walls.

On quitting the stat. we perceive on the right bank of the Rhone the Bath-house of *Lavey*, erected 1831 over a warm sulphureous spring discovered in the river bed, at the expense of canton Vaud. The water is employed in supplying medicinal baths, the healing properties of which are attributed to the quantity of azote gas contained in the water. Upon a projecting platform of rock considerably above the road, rises the Hermitage of Notre Dame du Sax. Lower down on the road is the chapel of Veriolez, raised on the precise spot of the Theban massacre (!), and covered with rude frescoes.

In the autumn of 1835 a torrent of mud descended from the Dent du Midi into the Valais near Evionaz. It cut a passage for itself through the forest which clothes the side of the mountain, snapping the stoutest trees short off like twigs. It covered the high road for 900 ft., interrupting the communication, and overwhelmed many fields and orchards, and some few houses; but no lives were lost, as the slow progress of the current allowed every one time to remove out of its way. On the 25th of August a violent storm of rain had burst upon the Dent du Midi, accompanied by thunder. It is supposed that a mass of the mountain was loosened by the rain, and in falling broke through and carried down with it a considerable part of a glacier. The rain and melting ice mixing with the fragments and with the débris of moraines converted the whole mass into a thick mud, which swept slowly downwards like a lava current. Blocks of limestone of many tons weight, and some of them 12 ft. high, were carried along with it. It is a remarkable fact that the stream of mud contained scarcely one-tenth part of water; the fluidity of the mass was no doubt promoted by the character of the rocks and soil which covered the mountain, and which consisted of a black splintery limestone, shale, and loam. The wretched hamlet Evionaz occupies the site of an old town, Epaunum, destroyed by a similar mud-torrent in 563.

This part of the valley has a dreary and barren aspect, from the quantity of bare gravel and broken rock strewed over it, and the traces of the terrible flood of 1852 are still very visible.

6½ m. *Vernayaz Stat.* Travellers should stop here to visit the *Waterfall of the Sallenche*, which descends into the valley of the Rhone out of a narrow ravine, apparently excavated by its waters (1½ m. walk). The perpendicular descent of the stream is about 280 feet, but the final leap of the cascade not more than 120 feet. It is a fine object, both from

its volume and height, visible from a considerable distance up and down. It is best seen in a sunny morning before 12 o'clock, when the iris, formed in the cloud of spray, hovers over it. The neighbouring village of Mieville sends forth an importunate crowd of beggars and self-appointed guides to conduct travellers from the road to the fall, a distance of a few hundred yards.

$\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Vernayaz Stat. we cross another stream, the *Trient*, descending from the Pass of the Tête Noire (up which a mule-path, very interesting for its scenery, has been made, converging upon the Tête Noire route to Chamounix, Rte. 141), and issuing out of a singular rent in the side of the valley. A wooden gallery has been constructed from which travellers can obtain a good view of the gorge, and look down into the chasm, whose depths are worn smooth and hollowed out by the force of the water. Charge for entrance 1 fr. The chasm is something like that of Pfeffers; by all means visit it.

Mule-path from this in 4 hrs. up the Trient valley to the Barberine Hotel, on the way to Chamounix (Rte. 141). Splendid scenery. Hence to Martigny is 2 m.

On the outskirts of Martigny, upon a commanding rock, rises the *castle of La Bâtie* (irreverently likened by the late Albert Smith to "an insolvent lighthouse") formerly a stronghold of the archbishops of Sion; it was taken and burnt by George Supersax in 1518. The deep dungeon beneath its tall tower is only accessible by a trapdoor in the floor of the chamber above. The river Dranse passes out into the Rhone, between La Bâtie and

*Martigny* (Inns: \*Grande Maison, good and reasonable; Cygne; La Tour, oldest; Hôtel Clero, Eng. Ch. service here, good).

Martigny (Octodurus of the Romans) consists of two parts—the one situated on the Simplon road, the other, Bourg de Martigny, more than a mile distant up the valley of the Dranse. Its position on the high road of the Simplon, at the termina-

tion of the char-road from the St. Bernard, and the mule-path from Chamouni, renders it the constant resort of travellers. The scenery around is grand: a flat, open valley bordered by mountains of great boldness. It is a small town of no prepossessing appearance, 1520 ft. above the sea, placed near the spot where the Rhone receives the Dranse, a torrent by which Martigny itself and the village of Bourg de Martigny have been twice nearly destroyed, in 1545 and in 1818. Marks of the last inundation (Rte. 136) are still visible on the walls of many of the houses; and the massive construction of the lower walls of the post-house is designed to protect it from the effects of similar catastrophes. The *Bridge* is one of the finest specimens of the Swiss covered wooden bridges, with the arch above the roadway. The monks of St. Bernard have their head-quarters in a *convent* within the town, from which the members stationed on the Great St. Bernard are relieved at intervals. The monastery of the Great St. Bernard is a journey of 10 hours from hence. (Rte. 135.) From Martigny to the *Sallenche Waterfall*, near Vernayaz Stat. (3 m.), see above.

[The valley of Chamouni may be reached in 7 or 8 hours by the Tête Noire (Rte. 141), or Col de Balme (Rte. 142). The Forclaz and the beautiful view from it is an easy walk.

From Martigny, or Sembranchier, in the valley of the Dranse, an easy and interesting excursion may be made to the summit of the \**Pierre à Voir* (8123 ft.), a mountain in the range between the valley of the Rhone and the Val de Bagnes,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to ride up, 3 hrs. to descend if the last 2 leagues be accomplished in sledges (*traîneaux*) which are kept for the purpose. Two persons sit in a sledge; a guide acts as horse and runs down with it over the grass. It is an amusing and perfectly safe way of making the descent. An *Hotel* is built near the summit. There is a good mule-path all the way. The panoramic view from the top is exceedingly grand and



PANORAMA FROM PIERRE A VOIR, NEAR MARTIGNY.



comprehensive. Guide, 5 fr.; mule, 8 fr. It can be ascended equally well, if not better, from Saxon les Bains, which lies immediately at its foot.]

At Martigny the Rhone makes an abrupt bend, forming nearly a right angle. For many miles above the town, the bottom of the valley through which it flows is a flat swamp, rendered desolate and unwholesome by the overflowings of the Rhone and its tributaries, which, not being carried off by a sufficient declivity in their beds, stagnate, and exhale an injurious malaria under the rays of a burning sun, and generate gnats not much inferior to mosquitoes. Travellers do not suffer from the malaria, but the inhabitants of the valley are dreadfully afflicted with goitre (§ 18), crétinism, and ague; and the appearance of decrepitude, deformity, and misery arrests the traveller's attention at every step. A tolerable wine, called Coquempin, is grown upon the hills; the low flats produce little except rushes, rank grass, and alders. The mountains which here bound the valley have a bare and desolate aspect.

*Saxon les Bains Stat.* Pension. A watering-place at the foot of the Pierre à Voir. Springs contain iodine and bromine.

*Riddes Stat.* After crossing the Rhone the Railroad passes the foot-path leading to the Diablerets (Rte. 58), and soon after the twin castles of Sion appear in sight.

[Hence the *Haut de Cry* (9698 ft.), on the N. side of the valley, may be ascended. It was the scene of a deplorable accident on Feb. 28th, 1864. A Russian gentleman, M. Boissonet, and Mr. Gosset, with 4 guides, including Joseph Bennen, started for its ascent. The day was most enjoyable, and the party were in high spirits, and had easily arrived to within 400 ft. of the summit, when the snow-field on which they were crossing diagonally gave way suddenly above them, across a belt of enormous length. The huge avalanche hurried downward, bearing the party with it. During the descent Mr. Gosset was once overwhelmed, then found himself again on

the surface; lastly, when the motion ceased, after a descent of 1800 ft., he was again buried and was fast suffocating. The snow "regelated," to use the modern term, that is to say, compacted itself into ice (See *Introd.*, § 17) around him. His hands and wrists were fortunately disengaged. With failing powers he contrived to scratch away enough ice to admit air to his mouth. Three guides were happily uninjured, and they saw and released him; but M. Boissonet lay dead on one side of him, and poor Bennen on the other. Thus perished Bennen, the very best of Swiss guides; the companion of Prof. Tyndall, and of so many other members of the Alpine Club, and the leader in numerous first ascents of Peaks and Passes.

*Ardon Stat.*, at the mouth of the Vale of the Lizerne. Here are iron-works.

*Sion Stat.* (Germ. *Sitten*). — *Inns*: Poste, good, landlord civil; Lion d'Or, good and reasonable. There is a comfortable pension 2 min. walk from Sion, kept by Madame Muston (Protestant). Sion has no less than three extensive Castles, which give the town a picturesque and feudal aspect from a distance. Those who have time may ascend in 20 min. to the highest of the three. *Tourbillon*, the castle seen on the l. in advancing from Martigny, built 1492, and long the bishop's residence, is now a complete ruin. The castle standing on the southern rock, called Valeria, now serves as a Catholic seminary. It contains the *Old Cathedral*, a mixture of Romanesque and of Early Pointed architecture. Among the objects worth notice are a very perfect roodloft of the 13th cent., a votive chapel to St. Catherine, and some old frescoes. The present cathedral is in the town below, and close to it is the modern Bishop's Palace. The third castle, called *Majoria*, from the majors, or ancient governors of the Valais, its first occupants, was burnt in 1788 by a conflagration which destroyed the greater part of the town. In the *Jesuits' convent* is a collection of the natural history of the Valais.

*La Tour de Force*, a prison containing the condemned cells, and the Rue du Château, the place of execution, resembling the base of a tower, remind one of the past history of Sion.

Sion contains 4200 Inhab. and is the capital of the Valais (Germ. Wallis)—one of the most miserable and melancholy districts in northern Europe. It was formerly a flourishing country, as the ruins of the numerous castles and the remains of former splendour at Sion and Visp attest; and in the commencement of the 16th century Matthew Schinner, Bishop of Sion, was a powerful prince, whose alliance was courted by all the sovereigns of Europe—principally, it is true, for the sake of procuring the services of the Swiss mercenaries. It is said that Sion has been besieged and taken more than 30 times, and, like many Swiss towns, it has been burnt nearly down.

The *Hospital*, under the care of the *Sœurs de Charité*, contains many victims of goitre and crétinism.

S. of Sion the Val d'Erin stretches far into the main-chain of the Alps (Rtes. 129, 131).

Mule-path to Bex (Rte. 58).

The Simplon road, from Sion to Domo D'Ossola (Rte. 59).

The rly. is finished as far as

*Sierra* (Germ. Siders). *Inns*: Soleil; \*Pension Baur, outside the town, very good. Good muscatel wine here.

*Diligence* to Brieg twice a day, starting on arrival of the trains.

*Omnibus* daily to Leuk Baths (Rte. 37).

## ROUTE 57.

GENEVA TO MARTIGNY, BY THONON AND MEILLERIE, ALONG THE SOUTH SHORE OF THE LAKE OF GENEVA.

*Steamers* twice a day (touching at Belotte, Bellerive, Asnières, Hermance, Thonon, Evian, on S. shore of lake), in 5 hrs. to Bouveret, where [Switz.]

passengers take the rly. to Martigny and Sion. Post-road from Geneva to Bouveret, 37 Eng. m.

This is the original Simplon road, but is now almost deserted, though from Evian to Bouveret the scenery is very grand, finer than that of the N. shore. Persons taking this route must remember that it lies through French territory, and that they become subject to a visit at the custom-house and inquiries for passports.

After quitting Geneva by the Quartier de Rive, a fine view opens out rt.; beyond the Salève rises the Môle, and the valley of the Arve is terminated by the Buet, by Mont Blanc and its glaciers. The shore of the lake is dotted over with villas of the Genevese. One of these, near the village of Cologny, the *Campagna Diodati*, is interesting as having been the residence of Lord Byron in 1816. He wrote here the 3rd canto of *Childe Harold* and the tragedy of *Manfred*.

Beyond the village of Corsier the Genevan territory is left, and we enter the ancient province of Chablais, now annexed to France, which extends along the lake as far as St. Gingough. A monotonous plain is traversed in order to reach

*Douvaine*. 10 m. farther is

*Thonon*—(*Inns*: H. de l'Europe, fair, adjoining the Terrace; Les Balances)—an ancient town of 4825 Inhab., originally capital of the Chablais.

On quitting Thonon we pass on the left, between the road and the lake, *Ripaille*, anciently an Augustine convent, founded by Amedeus VIII. of Savoy, close by which he passed a portion of his life as a hermit, with 6 chosen companions. He abdicated, in turn, the dukedom of Savoy, the Papacy (into which he had been installed with the name of Felix V.), and the bishop's see of Geneva. He resided here after his second abdication, passing his time not in the austere penance of an anchorite, but, according to the popular belief, in ease and dissipation. Hence the French proverb—"Faire Ripaille." It is, however, probable that, even to the

last, he had not abandoned the path of ambition, and that, far from being inactive and exclusively devoted to luxury, he was still weaving political intrigues. The relic of the convent is converted into a farmhouse, by the side of which Amedeus VIII. built a castle.

A long bridge of 24 arches carries the road over the Dranse, a torrent descending from the mountains of the Chablais, and augmented to a large volume by the melting snows during a small part of the year.

[*Thonon to Sixt.* There is a char-road up the valley of the Dranse by some gypsum-works, after which it passes through numerous villages to La Vernaz, 3 hrs., and by the ruins of the Abbey of Aulph, to Morzine, 7 hrs. from Thonon. Ascending from thence nearly due S. either by the *Col de Jouxplane*, or the *Col de Golèze*, Samoens in the Val de Sixt (Rte. 143) may be reached through very beautiful scenery in about 3½ hrs. At the Chalets de la Golèze, a little S. of the summit (height about 5600 Eng. ft.), refreshment and indifferent night quarters may be found in case of need.

Tanninges (Rte. 143) may be reached in 10 hrs. from Thonon, by St. Jean d'Aulph and Gets. A rough char-road. Monthey on the rly. to Martigny may be reached from Morzine either by the *Col de Coux* (see Rte. 144), or by the *Col de Champéry*, which enters the Val d'Iliez below the village of Champéry. Two other passes—the *Col de Chesery*, from Montriond below Morzine, and the *Col d'Abondance*, reached by the E. branch of the Dranse, lead to Morgin (an Inn with mineral baths), and from thence in 2½ hrs. to Monthey.]

Through groves of magnificent chestnut-trees we pass Amphion, H. de Casino, once a gay watering-place, an old town surrounded by a ruined wall, capital of the Pays de Gavot, where are baths supplied by a chalybeate (? sulphur) spring, and reach

*Evian* (Inns: H. des Bains, good; H. Fonbonne, near the lake and steamboats; H. du Nord; Poste: in all, 6

hotels, and 40 lodging-houses), a town of 3000 Inhab., at the water-side, much improved of late. On a height above is the Bath-house, resorted to for its mineral waters. Dr. C. Depraz, resident physician, may be trusted. He served in the Crimea on our medical staff. *Steamer to Lausanne.*

The *Rocks of Meillerie*, celebrated by Rousseau and Byron, were, under the orders of Napoleon, and with the help of gunpowder, blasted to form a passage for the magnificent road of the Simplon, which is here carried partly through them, partly on a terrace 30 or 40 feet above the lake. Previous to its construction, the little village of Meillerie was barely accessible, except by boats. About a mile off the shore, at Meillerie, the lake attains its greatest depth, 920 Fr. ft. Here Byron was nearly lost in a storm. Rousseau, in the N. Héloïse, has conducted St. Preux and Mad. Wolmar also to this port for shelter from a tempest. On the opposite shore is seen Clarens, and the white wall of the castle of Chillon (Rte. 55).

*St. Gingough*—(Inn: Poste, an enormous building, once a convent, not good. Mosquitoes very troublesome all along the S. shore of the lake. The deep ravine of the Morge here divides Savoy from the Swiss territory of the Valais; travellers entering from the Valais are subjected to French custom-house regulations here.

*Bouveret Stat.* (Restaurant at Stat.; Inn, La Tour) lies within the valley of the Rhone, here a broad, flat, dreary swamp.

The railway has been completed from Bouveret to Martigny and Sion. The same company are carrying on the line from Bouveret to Geneva along the S. shore of the lake. The lake steamers set down passengers for the railway station on the wharf at Bouveret.

Bouveret lies in a marsh, ~~and~~ sleeping here. Four trains daily, in ¼ hr. to St. Maurice. *Steamer* daily to Vevay and Geneva.

Port Valais, in the days of the Romans, stood on the waterside;

all the ground between it and the lake, 1½ m., has been produced since the records of history, by the deposits of the river. At Port du Sex the rocks on the rt. encroach so far upon the Rhone as barely to leave a passage for the road at their base. Advantage was taken of this pass in ancient times to construct a fort with loopholes for arrows, and embrasures for cannon, which effectually closed the entrance to the Valais, the only passage being over its draw-bridge and through its gate. The plain is strewn with hillocks and débris of limestone, the remains of a landslide from the Grammont, 7000 ft. high, on the l. bank of the Rhone, A.D. 563, which thence fell down the ravine of Evouettes, all across the valley as far as Roche and Rennaz, burying a Roman station, so as to dam up the Rhone and form a temporary lake, reaching up to the rocks of St. Tryphons, which at last burst its barrier near Port du Sex.

The canal of Stockalper, running nearly parallel with the road, was cut about a century ago, to drain this portion of the valley. At Vouvry is a good country Inn.

Vionnaz. Above this village are some most remarkable boulders.

Monthey Stat. (Inn: Croix d'Or, clean and moderate). [Behind this village is the Val d'Iliez, extending towards the Dent du Midi. Mail cabriolet (3 passengers, every morning). Road bad. The Dent du Midi is a good hotel, at Champéry in the upper part. In a lateral valley opening up to the W. 2 m. above Monthey are the baths of Morgin, pension 4½ fr. a day, accommodation indifferent.] (See Rte. 144.)

Evimaz. Owing to an abrupt bend in the valley, and a projecting rock which hides the upper portion from view, the road comes suddenly upon

St. Maurice Junct. Stat. (Rte. 56). Here the rly. from Geneva, by Lausanne and Vevay falls in.

Martigny (Rte. 56).

ROUTE 58:

BEX TO SION, BY THE COL DE CHÉVILLE—DIABLERETS.

	H. M.
Bex.	
Grion . . . . .	2 15
Soulalex . . . . .	1 45
Anzeindas . . . . .	1 15
Col . . . . .	0 45
Derborenze . . . . .	1 0
Bridge . . . . .	0 40
St. Bernard . . . . .	1 30
Sion . . . . .	1 40
	<hr/> 10 50

This is a highly interesting pass, both from the geological phenomenon of its Berg-fall, or mountain slip, and for the extreme picturesqueness of its scenery; the pass is, however, long, and from Grion to Avent there is no inn: this is probably the reason why the whole region of the Diablerets, though yielding to few in ruggedness and in commanding views over the Alps, has been unvisited and neglected. [The Diablerets, 10,670 ft., can be ascended from Grion, sleeping one night at the chalets of Anzeindas: guides at Grion.] As the pass is long, it is advisable to sleep at Grion, 2½ hrs. from Bex; or, as the accommodation there is indifferent, some will prefer to start before daylight in a char for that village. Bex is described in Rte. 56. An excellent carriage-road has been made from Bex to Grion, ascending the heights by numerous zigzags; the pedestrian will, however, probably cut off most of these by taking the old mule-path which continually crosses the carriage-road. Carriage from Bex to Grion 8 fr. The pedestrian will follow the river Avençon for about a mile to Bévioux, where are some salt-works: the road then leaves the river, and, after keeping rather to the N., begins to ascend the heights on the rt. bank of the stream; part of the road is beaut

shaded by woods of fir, beech, or walnut, and part is through vineyards and fields. The ascent is tedious by the road, steep and rugged by the paths.

*Grion*, prettily situated on the slope of the mountain high above the river, is a regular Swiss village. There are 2 homely but cheap inns (*Croix Blanche*, best) and a boarding-house, where as many as 50 persons are accommodated in the season. The situation is healthy, goitre and crétins unknown. Side-saddles are to be had; a mule to the Col 7 fr., 1 fr. *bonne-main*. There is little advantage, however, in taking a mule beyond the Col, as it could not be used during great part of the way from the Col to *Avent*, where mules are to be found. A guide charges 12 fr. to *Sion*, but a pedestrian well accustomed to mountains can find the way without a guide. After leaving *Grion* the road which might be traversed by a char for the first 2 hrs., keeps high above the river, and enters further into the valley of the *Avençon*, running nearly due E., and passing by numerous châteaux and houses, through green meadows surrounded by fir-trees and overhung by precipices, through beautiful pastoral scenery. The road is tolerably level, and about 1½ hr. from *Grion* crosses the stream to the l. bank, then goes through fine shady woods for about 20 min., and crossing the stream again reaches the châteaux of *Soulalex*, beautifully situated in a green plain with spruce firs all round, and tremendous precipices above the firs. The road now keeps a little to the l., and rapidly ascends a narrow ravine to the châteaux of *Anzeindas*, which are situated on tolerably level ground. In one of these is a room where it would be possible to sleep, but the traveller must not depend on finding food, as the pass is little used. From this a moderate ascent over the green pasture under the precipices of the *Diablerets* leads to

The *Col de Chéville* (6686 ft.). By ascending the mound on the rt. of the Col, a fine view is obtained of the great chain of the Alps to

*Monteleone*, and towards the S. of the bare peaks of the *Tête de Gros Jean* and *Grand Moeran*. The descent from the Col turns at first to the rt., then to the l., and is very steep and rugged; there is no particular path, but it is not easy to miss the way. In about 30 min. from the Col the châteaux of *Chéville*, on a tolerably level space covered with rocky fragments, are reached. A little *Iau* was lately built here. Keeping along the stream a short distance farther, and then bearing to the rt., a very steep descent through trees leads to the little *Lac de Derborence*, and the châteaux bearing the same name.

The valley here is nearly filled by the wreck of the fall of the *Mont Diablerets*, a name given to the spot by the peasantry, it is said, because they regard it as the vestibule of hell. This mountain is composed of limestone strata, much deranged and steeply inclined. The lower beds, being soft and shaly, are disintegrated by the infiltration of water from the vast glaciers on the N.E.; and, after the supports and foundation are thus removed, large masses are detached from the mountain into the valley below, forming éboulements of the most tremendous kind. During the last century two catastrophes of this kind occurred, in 1714 and 1749. By the former, 15 human beings, 100 head of cattle, and 55 châteaux were buried. Subterranean noises, produced by the commotion in the mountain, gave warning for several days beforehand, so that most of the peasants and their cattle removed out of the way. One man belonging to the village of *Avent* was overwhelmed in a châlet on the mountain, but escaped being crushed to death by two masses of rock forming an angle over it. He managed to support life upon a store of cheese laid up for the winter, and with water from a brook which found its way through the fallen rocks. After many weeks passed in the dark, he at length, by creeping and scratching among the rocks, formed a passage through which a gleam of daylight appeared, and



through it succeeded at length in working his way out, returning to his friends after having been lost for 3 months. At the moment of the fall, the surrounding district shook as with an earthquake, a thick cloud of dust rose high into the air from the friction of it, masses of rock were hurled a distance of 6 miles, and the current of air produced by it threw down trees which were not touched by the fall itself. The inhabitants of one of the neighbouring villages enjoy daylight at a certain season of the year several minutes earlier than they did before the event. The fall of 1749 arrested the course of the Liserne, forming the little lake of Derborenze.

The path keeps to the W. side of the lake, and traverses for more than an hour a wilderness of rubbish and fallen rocks. A little care is required to keep the track. The scene is one of the utmost desolation; overhead towers the ridge of the Diablerets, 10,670 ft. above the sea-level. Three of its five peaks have already fallen, and the two which remain threaten, sooner or later, to follow. The mountain is again rent with fissures, and scarcely an hour passes in which a slight noise is not heard or a fragment of stone does not fall. The accumulated débris of the mountain is said to cover a space of 8 miles. The traveller will be reminded strongly of a Cirque in the Pyrennes. The path winds round the mountain to the rt., and in about 35 min. from Derborenze crosses the Liserne by a little bridge. There is no house near the spot; in fact there is none from Derborenze to Avent. After about 20 min. more of rocks and stunted firs the path begins to rise on the l. bank along the precipices which border the Liserne. For the next 2 m. the path is a mere ledge, sometimes cut out of the face of the rock, sometimes built up, and overhanging sheer precipices of some 1200 ft. down to where the Liserne is roaring in the chasm below. Though there is no danger, the path is very narrow and far more formidable than that of the Gemmi. The path now passes through some beau-

tiful beech-woods, still upon a steep slope, and then reaches the little chapel of St. Bernhard, whence there is a fine view of the great chain of the Alps. Here the valley of the Liserne is left; the path turns to the E. and descends rapidly to the village of *Avents* about 20 min. from St. Bernhard; thence to *Conthey*, where is an inn; and thence to the high road at the bridge of the Morge, about 2½ m. from Sion. A guide would show a pleasanter way through by-paths from Avent.

Route reversed. — Mules can be taken from Sion to the Col (a good 7 hrs.), and, if necessary, on to Grion. The pedestrian should take the diligence or a char to the bridge over the Morge or to Vetroz. He will see his path as far as the chapel of St. Bernhard plainly marked on the face of the mountain. When about 2 hrs. beyond the chapel he must look out for the bridge on the l. and cross the Liserne. The path through the rocks is not very clear after this, and most travellers will be the better for a guide. Bearing round the mountain to the l., he will find the Derborenze. Crossing the bridge above it, the ascent begins immediately behind the chalets, and is very steep for 15 min., then along a little valley for 20 min., then very steep and rugged to the Col, turning at last towards the rt. From the Col the path cannot be mistaken. Time actually occupied, exclusive of stoppages, ascending moderately, descending faster—

	H. M.
Bridge over Morge . . . . .	0 40
St. Bernhard . . . . .	1 40
Bridge over Liserne . . . . .	1 45
Derborenze . . . . .	1 0
Col de Chéville . . . . .	1 20
Soulalex . . . . .	1 0
Grion . . . . .	1 15
Bex . . . . .	1 30
	<hr/> 10 10

There is also a path from Ardon, on the rt. bank of the Liserne, 3 or 4 m. farther from Sion; but the road is said to be as long as that by Conthey.

## ROUTE 59.

PASSAGE OF THE SIMPLON. SION TO  
DOMO D'OSSOLA.

Post-road: Sion to Domo d'Ossola  
8½ posts = 78 miles. Railway in pro-  
gress from Sion to Brieg.

	Posts.	Eng. m.
Sion.		
Sierre . . . .	1½	= 10
Turtman . . . .	1	= 9
Visp . . . .	1	= 9
Brieg . . . .	½	= 5½
Berisal . . . .	1	= 9
Simplon . . . .	1½	= 15
Isella . . . .	1	= 9
Domo d'Ossola . .	1½	= 11½

With post-horses the journey may be accomplished easily in 1½ day, resting 1st night at Brieg, 2nd at Domo.

Until the *Railway*, Sion to Brieg, is finished—*Diligences* daily to Domo, and thence to Arona, whence the rly. is open to Milan.

Sion is described in Rte. 56.

Passing opposite the opening of the Val d'Erin or Eringerthal (see Rte. 131), through scenery rather less monotonous than that of the valley between Martigny and Sion, the first town reached is

*Sierre Stat.* (Germ. Siders).—*Inns*: Soleil (Post), good; H. Baur, just outside the town, better; 1100 Inhab. Smelting furnaces here.

[A steep but romantic path leads to the Baths of Lœche, turning out of the post-road a little way beyond the town, before reaching the bridge. (Rte. 37.)]

Beyond Sierre, opposite H. Baur, another valley stretches S. into the main-chain of Alps, the very interesting Val d'Anniviers or Einfeld Thal. It is a journey of 3 or 4 hrs. by Vissoye to St. Luc (Rte. 129).

The post-road, after crossing the Rhone, and winding for some distance among irregular hillocks, passes, on the rt. bank of the river, at the mouth of the gorge of the Dala, the

picturesque village of Leuk (Rte. 37).

*Pfynn* (*ad fines*) is on the boundary between the German language, which prevails above this, as far as the source of the Rhone, and the French, which is spoken below this. The Pfinger Wald, behind Sierre, is a strong military position, stoutly defended against the French in 1798.

*Susten* (*Inn*, H. de la Souste, comfortable hotel, one of the best on the road).

Horses may be hired here for Zermatt or for Saas (Rte. 129).

*Tourtemagne* (Germ. Turtman).—*Inns*: \*Poste; Soleil, fair. 15 minutes' walk behind the inn is a *Cascade* of some repute. The volume of water is considerable, and its height by actual measurement is 150 ft. Not inferior to the fall of the Sallenche near Martigny, it is worthy of a visit by those who are amateurs of water-falls: the scene is interesting on account of its entire seclusion. The neighbourhood is overspread with marshes and stagnant pools, and the road is frequently flooded by the swollen Rhone. [The wild gorge behind the town leads up to the Turtman Thal (Rte. 129).]

*Visp* or *Vispach* (Fr. Viège) (*Inns*: Post; Soleil, better and cheap). Some persons object to sleep at Visp, owing to an apprehension of malaria arising from the floods in the Rhone valley, and at some seasons this fear is probably well founded. Travellers bound for Zermatt (Rte. 127) may break the journey at Stalden, or at St. Nicholas.

A poor village (2410 ft. above the sea), finely situated at the entrance of the Visper-Thal, up which the Balfrinhorn and its glaciers are to be seen. It was once the seat of numerous noble families, which have all disappeared, leaving only their large houses, now inhabited by poor people, to attest the fact. There are 2 large churches, the upper one finely situated. The lower ch. was formerly the ch. of the nobles, and ultimately became the property of the family of Blandrath, the last of the noble families. An earthquake, which began on July 25,

1855, and lasted with diminished force for several months, left only 7 houses in Visp habitable, forcing the inhabitants to encamp. Nearly all the ceilings in the town fell, amongst others that of the nobles' ch. The Poste Inn suffered severely; and cracks in many of the houses are still to be seen. Visp was the centre of the earthquake, which was felt over an area of 300 miles N. and S., 250 E. and W.

The Gamsen and other torrents which fall into the upper end of the Valais are very dangerous neighbours to the villages and cottages on their banks. The bed of the river Visp is nearly 13 ft. above a part of the village, and the Saltine is nearly 11 ft. higher than Brieg. The miserable and poverty-stricken inhabitants are in consequence obliged to construct very considerable dykes to restrain them, but even these defences are liable to destruction every 2 or 3 years.

The desolation which the torrents spread over the fields, by their débris, will attract the remark of every traveller; and the evil is constantly increasing, as the beds of the torrents rise as fast as the dykes are raised to restrain them, till they flow along the top of a colossal aqueduct or wall of loose rocks, which the road ascends and descends like a hill.

On the road to Brieg glimpses of the Nesthorn and the fine range of peaks in its neighbourhood are occasionally to be had, as the road passes opposite the narrow glens that open into that little-visited range.

The ascent of the Simplon originally began at Glys, a village distinguished by its large church and *charnel-house* filled with skulls!—10,000 at a rough computation. Now, however, a *détour* of about 1 m. is made to pass through

*Brieg—Inns*: Poste; \*H. d'Angleterre, clean and good; H. du Simplon. Brieg is the usual halting-place of travellers before or after crossing the Simplon. It is a town of 1014 Inhab., situated on a sunny slope 2460 ft. above the sea, by the side

of the Saltine, and overlooking the course of the Rhone, which here makes a sharp bend. The most conspicuous buildings are, the *château* of the family Stockalper, whose 4 turrets are crowned with tin cupolas, and the *Jesuits' College*. There is also an *Ursuline Convent*.

[The upper valley of the Rhone above Brieg is accessible by a good carriage-road, passing the Rhone glacier, and traversing the Pass of the Furca, to Andermatt, on the St. Gotthard. The routes to the Grimsel and Gries, to the Eggischhorn and to the Bel Alp, 4 hrs.' walk from Brieg (bad road, but grand view and good *Inn*), are in Rte. 28.]

For the passage of the Simplon *voituriers* charge from 60 to 70 fr. from Brieg to Domo. The distance is about 44 Eng. m. Travellers wishing to send luggage into Italy by the diligence must consign it at the Post-office on the evening before. The keys must be sent tied or fastened to the outside of each piece of luggage, otherwise the luggage will be detained at the Italian Custom-house at Isella. Luggage often miscarries.

On foot the distance may be shortened, but it will require full 12 hrs.' steady walking. The footpaths and short cuts require a guide. N.B. In September the diligence does not reach the finest part of the pass till dark.

The construction of a route over the Simplon was decided upon by Napoleon immediately after the battle of Marengo, while the recollection of his own difficult passage of the Alps by the Great St. Bernard (at that time one of the easiest Alpine passes) was fresh in his memory. The plans and surveys by which the direction of the road was determined were made by M. Céard, and a large portion of the works was executed under the superintendence of that able engineer. It was commenced on the Italian side in 1800, and on the Swiss in 1801. It took 6 years to complete, though it was barely passable in 1805, and more than 30,000 men were employed on it at one time. To give a notion of the colossal nature of the undertaking, it

may be mentioned that the number of bridges, great and small, constructed for the passage of the road between Brieg and Sesto, amounts to 611, in addition to the far more vast and costly constructions, such as terraces of massive masonry miles in length; of 10 galleries, either cut out of the living rock or built of solid stone; and of 20 houses of refuge to shelter travellers, and lodge the labourers constantly employed in taking care of the road. Its breadth is throughout at least 25 ft., in some places 30 ft., and the slope nowhere exceeds 1 in 13.

To use the eloquent words of Sir James Mackintosh, "the Simplon may be safely said to be the most wonderful of useful works, because our canals and docks surpass it in utility, science, and magnitude, but they have no grandeur to the eye. Its peculiar character is, to be the greatest of all those monuments that at once dazzle the imagination by their splendour, and are subservient to general convenience." Excepting the Cenis, this was the first carriage-road carried across any of the higher passes of the Alps. Its cost averaged about 5000*l.* a mile. In England the average cost of turnpike-roads is 1000*l.* per mile. It was the wonder of its day; but the triumphs of modern engineering are greater. The object of Napoleon in its formation is well marked by the question which, on two different occasions, he first asked of the engineer sent to him to report progress—"Le canon quand pourra-t-il passer au Simplon?"

The ascent of the Simplon begins at once from *Brieg*. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile above the town the road leaves, on the rt., the lofty covered bridge over the Saltine, now little used, since most vehicles make the *détour* by Brieg instead of going direct to or from *Glys*, whither this bridge conducts. The road then makes a wide sweep, turning away from the *Glyzhorn*, the mountain which bounds the valley on the rt., towards the *Breithorn*, on the opposite side, approaching a little hill dotted with white chapels and crowned by a calvary. It then again approaches

the gorge of the Saltine, skirting the verge of a precipice, at the bottom of which the torrent is seen at a vast depth, forcing its way among black and bristling slate rocks, which seem still shattered by the convulsion which first gave a passage to its waters. At the upper end of the ravine, high above his head, the traveller may discern the glaciers under which the road is carried, but which he will require at least 3 good hours to reach, on account of the sinuosities of the route. Looking back, he will perceive the valley of the Rhone, as far as Turtman, spread out as a map at his feet; Brieg and Naters remain long in sight. It is a constant pull against the collar from Brieg to the second refuge. Here the road, carried for some distance nearly on a level, is compelled to bend round the valley of the *Ganther* until it can cross the torrent which traverses it by another lofty bridge, called *Pont du Ganther*. The upper end of this wild ravine is subject to avalanches almost every winter, the snow of which nearly fills it up, and reaches sometimes to the crown of the arch. This bridge is left uncovered, from the fear justly entertained by the engineers that the terrific gusts or currents of air which accompany the fall of an avalanche might blow the arch entirely away, were much resistance of flat timber-work presented to it. The road originally traversed a gallery cut in the rock near this, but it has been removed. After crossing the bridge the road turns down the opposite side, and then ascends by a zigzag to the third refuge, called

*Béresal*, or *Persal*, an *Inn*, consisting of 2 buildings connected by a roof across the road, where 16 post-horses are kept, affording tolerable fare and beds. It may be reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours from Brieg.

The first gallery which the road traverses is that of *Schalbet*, 95 ft. long—3920 ft. above *Glys*. Near this and hence to the summit, should the sky be clear, the traveller's attention will be riveted by the glorious view of the *Bernese Alps*, which bound the

Valais and form the rt.-hand wall of the valley of the Rhone. The glittering white peaks of the Breithorn, Aletsch-hörner, and Viescher-hörner, are magnificent objects in this scene, while below them two strips are visible of the glaciers of Aletsch, the most extensive in the Alps.

Fifth Refuge, called *Schalbet*.—"Here a picture of desolation surrounds the traveller. The pine has no longer the scanty pittance of soil which it requires for nourishment; the hardy but beautiful Alpine flower ceases to embellish the sterile solitude; and the eye wanders over snow and glacier, fractured rock and roaring cataract, relieved only by that stupendous monument of human labour, the road itself, winding along the edges of precipices, penetrating the primeval granite, striding over the furious torrent, and burrowing through dark and dripping grottoes beneath accumulated masses of ice and snow."—*Johnson*.

The portion of the road between the fifth refuge and the summit is the most dangerous of all, at the season when avalanches fall and tourmentes arise, on which account it is provided with 6 places of shelter viz. 3 galleries, 2 refuges, and a hospice, within a distance of not more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile. The head of the gorge of Schalbet, a wild recess in the flanks of the Monte Leone, is filled up with glaciers, beneath which, along the edge of a yawning abyss, the road is necessarily conducted. These fields of everlasting ice, forming the Kaltwasser glacier, in the heat of summer feed 5 or 6 furious torrents, the sources of the Saltine, and in winter discharge frequent avalanches into the gulf below. To protect this portion of the road 3 galleries, called, from their vicinity to the glaciers, *Glacier Galleries*, partly excavated, partly built of masonry strongly arched, have been constructed. By an ingenious contrivance of the engineer, they serve in places as bridges and aqueducts at the same time, the torrents being conducted over and beneath them; and the traveller is surprised to find his carriage suddenly driven in perfect

safety underneath a considerable waterfall. These galleries have been recently extended far beyond their original length, for greater security. In the spring the avalanches slide over their roofs.

The pedestrian, ascending from Brieg, may shorten his way to the summit by at least 5 m. by following the old horse-track, which mounts the gorge of the Saltine, and entirely avoids the détour to Bérisal. The path is steep, the scenery far less interesting, and the way is, or was a few years ago, not easy to find, as the old path had in some places been carried away. An unpractised mountaineer going without a guide might easily get himself into serious difficulties.

A simple cross of wood, a few yards above the Sixth Refuge, marks the highest summit or culminating point of the road, 6580 ft. above the level of the sea. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile beyond it stands the *New Hospice*, founded by Napoleon for the reception of travellers, but left unfinished, for want of funds, until 1840. Externally it is a plain, solid edifice, containing several very neat bed-rooms for masters, a drawing-room provided with a piano, a refectory, a chapel, and about 30 beds for travellers of the common sort. N. R. There is neither corn, nor hay, nor stabling for horses. It is much more comfortable than the hospice on the Great St. Bernard, and is even warmed with a heating apparatus. It is occupied by 3 or 4 brothers of the Augustine order, members of the same community as those on the Great St. Bernard. Several of the celebrated dogs of St. Bernard are kept here, but they are rarely employed in active service. The monks are very happy to show the mansion to travellers, and to lodge and entertain them. Those who can afford it will always leave behind them remuneration at least equivalent to that which is paid at an inn. The establishment is similar to that on the Great St. Bernard, except that it is more limited in extent and funds. (See Rte. 135.)

From the Hospice a high and

difficult pass leads to the Saas Thal. (Rte. 122.)

A large open valley of considerable extent, bounded by snow-clad heights, having the appearance of a drained lake, occupies the summit of the Simplon. It is devoid of picturesque interest; all around is barrenness, though rhododendrons and coarse herbage grow. Below the road, on the rt., stands a small Tower, the original Hospice before the new one was built. A gradual but continued descent leads past the Seventh Refuge (ruined), in about 3 miles, to the village of

*Simplon* (Ital. *Sempione*). Inns: H. Fletschhorn, far the best, decent; Poste. Beware of attempts to detain travellers on pretence that horses are wanting, and to prevent their resorting to the Fletschhorn, which is 100 yds. lower down than the Poste. The traveller should here supply himself with a wooden sabot to save the iron drag of his carriage, during the continual descent of 3 or 4 hours.

By a well-constructed bend, the traveller reaches the *Gallerie d'Alaby*, the first excavation on the Italian side, about 9 leagues from Brieg and 5 from Domo d'Ossola, on the banks of the torrent Doveria. The road dives into this gallery, and then, by a more gradual slope, enters the *Gorge of Gondo*, one of the grandest and most savage in the Alps. It is bounded by slate rocks, whose smooth vertical sides deny support to any vegetation. The base of these cliffs and the bed of the stream are in places heaped up with shattered fragments, ruins of the mountains above; while loosened masses still hanging on the slope seem to threaten the passenger below.

The Doveria is now crossed by a wooden bridge called Ponte Alto, an approach to which has been formed by scarping the rock with gunpowder. Some way farther a projecting buttress of rock juts out from the mountain on the l., and seems to block up all further passage. It is perforated by a tunnel called *Gallery of Gondo*, the longest cut through solid

rock in the whole line of the Simplon, as it measures 596 feet; it was also the most difficult and costly to make, on account of the extreme hardness of the rock. The miners were suspended by ropes to the face of the rock until a lodgment was effected, to commence the side openings, which now serve to light the interior. Opposite one of them is seen the inscription "*Ære Italo, 1805. Nap. Imp.*"

Close to the very mouth of this remarkable gallery the roaring waterfall of the Frassinone leaps down from the rocks, close to the road, which is carried over it on a beautiful bridge. Mr. Brockedon, an artist of skill, as well as a traveller of experience, remarks, in his *Excursions among the Alps*, that the scenery of this portion of the Val Doveria, in coming from Switzerland, bursting suddenly upon the traveller as he issues from the gallery, "offers perhaps the finest assemblage of objects to excite an emotion of the sublime, that is to be found in the Alps." The traveller should pause and look back after proceeding about 40 yards. The rocks rise on both sides as straight as walls, attaining the summit of wild sublimity. A number of zigzags now conduct to a bridge which was carried away by an avalanche during the dreadful storm which ruined a great part of the Simplon road, on the 24th of August, 1834. The road is still in places very narrow and in bad order.

*Gondo* (Gunz), the last village in the Valais, consists of a few miserable huts, grouped round a singular, tall building, 7 stories high, erected, like the tower at Simplon, by the old Brieg family Stockalper, in ancient days, for the refuge of travellers.

An hour's walk by the side of the torrent, which falls in a cascade down the rt.-hand wall of the valley, leads to the gold-mine of Zürich-bergen, which, though it barely produces a few particles of the precious metal, is still worked in the hope of gain. The traveller enters Italy a short while before reaching the Piedmontese village of



*Isella* (*Inn* good and clean, though small), where the custom-house and passport office are situated.

The tempests of 1834 and 1839 fell with tremendous violence upon this part of the road, which they destroyed for a space of nearly 8 m. Every bridge of stone was swept away; in some instances, even the materials of which the bridge was built disappeared, and the very place where it stood was not to be recognised, and it was many years before the road was repaired. The Gallery of Isella, a narrow arch of rock a little below the village, was flooded by the torrent pouring through it, so high were the waters swollen.

Hereabouts a change comes over the valley, from nakedness to the rich green foliage of the chestnut, which shades the road, and to that of the dark fir which clothes the summits of the hitherto bare mountains above. The last gallery is traversed a little before reaching Crevola, where the Doveria is crossed for the last time by a fine lofty bridge of 2 arches, nearly 90 ft. high, previous to its flowing into the river Toccia, or Tosa, which here issues out of the Val Formazza, and the Val Vedro terminates in the Val d'Ossola. The mule-path from the Gries and Grimsel, passing the falls of the Tosa (Rte. 62), joins the Simplon route at Crevola.

It is now that the traveller really finds himself in a different region and in an altered climate: the softer hues of earth and sky, the balmy air, the trellised vines, the rich juicy stalks of the maize, the almost deafening chirp of the grasshoppers or tree-crickets, and, at night, the equally loud croakings of the frogs—the white villages, with their tall, square bell-towers, also white, not only scattered thickly along the valley, but perched on every little jutting platform on the hill-sides—all these proclaim the entrance to *Italy*.

*Domo d'Ossola* (*Inns*: H. d'Espagne, good and clean, fair cuisine; \*H. de Ville or Ancienne Poste), an unimportant town, 2480 Inhab., with no interest, save that it is Italian—in

every stone. Houses with colonnades, streets with awnings, shops teeming with sausages, macaroni, and garlic, lazy-looking, loitering lazzaroni in red nightcaps, and bare, mahogany-coloured legs, intermixed with mules, burly priests, and females veiled with the mantilla, fill up the picture of an Italian town.

There is a *Calvary* above the town worth a visit by those who do not intend to see Varallo.

The Hotel Albasini, highly recommended as a pension or boarding-house, stands outside the town. It is resorted to on account of the baths in summer.

*Omnibuses* daily to Pallanza.

The ascent from this to the Hospice of the Simplon occupies 7 hrs.

Several very interesting *Excursions* may be made from this:

a. Up the lovely *Val Anzasca* (Rte. 121), by Pié di Mulera, to Vanzone and Macugnaga.

b. To the Val Vegezzo (Rte. 112).

c. To the Falls of the Tosa, 26 m. (Rte. 62).

d. To Masera; the ravines near the village very fine.

e. The Lake Megorzo and Pallanza.

Domo d'Ossola to Lago Maggiore and Arona is described in Rte. 111.

## ROUTE 60.

TURTMAN TO THE ÆGGISCHHORN,  
BY THE LÖTSCHSATTTEL.

This pass may well be combined with either of the passes leading from the canton of Berne into the Lötschthal (Rtes. 35, 38), or it may be taken by any lover of high Alpine scenery approaching the Æggischhorn from Sion or Turtman. Nowhere can a long day's journey over snow and ice be accomplished with so little risk or difficulty, and but few passes lead through grander scenery. None of the established precautions for glacier travelling should, however, be omitted. One of the best living mountaineers had a very narrow escape of being lost in a concealed crevasse on the Lötschsattel where the glacier appeared absolutely unbroken. From Kippel to the Æggischhorn is a tolerably hard day's work; but it is said that accommodation can be as well obtained at the curé's of Platten as at the curé's of Kippel. If so, the day's journey across the ice will be notably diminished, for Platten is 1½ hr. higher up the valley than Kippel. With the exception of a small part of the Lötschen glacier, the route presents no difficulties. In a very favourable state of the snow the whole distance may be performed in about 10 hrs.; but, if the snow be soft and deep, 2 or 3 hrs. more may be required. As well in order to get over the ascent before the sun has told upon the snow, as to secure daylight in case of bad weather coming on upon the vast snow-fields of the upper Aletsch glacier, it is advisable to start very early from Kippel. About 3½ hrs. walking by a tolerably good path up the valley leads to the point on the N. side of the Lötsch glacier where it is usual to take to the ice. The lower and

uppermost parts of the Lötschglletscher are free from difficulty, but the middle part is a good deal crevassed. An experienced guide has no difficulty, however, in finding his way, and the summit of the pass or *Lötschsattel* is reached in about 6 hrs. from Kippel.

The scenery here is extremely grand. On the N. side of the Sattel is the range of the Gletscherhorn and Mittaghorn, neighbours of the Jungfrau; to the S. is the still higher group of the Aletschhorn and Schienhorn. An easy descent leads over gently sloping snow-fields to the main stream of the Aletsch glacier. If not pressed for time, the traveller will do well to push on to a point near the centre of the main glacier from whence diverge 4 great and nearly equal glacier highways, each about 2 m. in width, separating the surrounding peaks. S.W. is the glacier which has just been descended; N.W. is the branch from the Mönch Sattel, between the Jungfrau and Mönch; N.E. is the glacier coming down from the Grünhorn-lücke, between the Grünhorn and Wannehorn, over which lies the way to the ascent of the Finsteraarhorn; finally, to the S.E. descends the great ice-stream which carries down the united drainage of the other three. These vast *Allées Blanches* are symmetrically placed so as to form a cross, or, as one traveller has called it, "The Place de la Concorde of Nature." The guides, if they know the glacier well, will not fail to point out a mere speck in the rocks on the l. hand in descending the main glacier, which marks the position of the Faulberg Cave, where adventurous travellers bent on ascending the greater peaks around usually pass the night. On reaching the curious Marjelen See the path on its N. bank is followed, and a slight ascent is required before reaching the Æggischhorn Hotel. (See Rte. 28.)

## ROUTE 61.

## VIESCH TO CRODO, IN VAL ANTIGORIO, BY THE BINNEN THAL.

There is no frequented pass over the range separating the Valais from Italy, between the Simplon (Rte. 59) and the Gries Pass (Rte. 62), a distance of above 30 m. This portion of the main chain is very little known to strangers, or even to the people of the valleys on either side. It is, however, passable in many directions, though the passes, excepting only the Albrun, are known only to a few herdsmen and chamois-hunters. The short valleys of *Blinnen* and *Rappen*, which fall into the upper valley of the Rhone near to *Rekingen* and *Aernen*, are uninhabited, and uninteresting in point of scenery. The only considerable valley on the S.E. side is the *Binnen Thal*, which pours its torrent into the Rhone a little below Laax. About 3 hrs. above the mouth of the valley it divides into 2 branches: the main branch, mounting nearly due E., preserves its name; the southern branch is called the *Heiligenkreutz Thal*, from the hamlet of *Heiligenkreutz*, where there is a chapel resorted to by pilgrims. At the fork of the main valley is placed the village of *Binnen*, where rough quarters for the night may be obtained. Both the branches above mentioned are formed by the union of smaller streams, each of them leading to a pass over the chain. 4 of these passes deserve to be mentioned.

a. The Albrun Pass, the most easterly of the 4, is also the easiest and the most circuitous for travellers

bound for Crodo, though the most direct for those who wish to reach Formazza and the Falls of the Tosa.

By this pass there is a paved track, passable for horses, from Laax to Crodo. The summit is a table-land, wild and dreary in aspect. The track to the Val Devero and Crodo doubles back, and, having been hitherto nearly due E., now turns to the W. of S. From the plateau it is possible to descend by a steep track, passing the lake and valley of Lebendue, to Formazza (Rte. 62).

b. The most direct course from Binnen to the Val Devero is by the *Col della Rossa*. It is said to present no difficulties, and joins the route of the Albrun at the châteaux of Ponte, at the head of the Val Devero.

c. A more interesting, but longer and more fatiguing path, is that by the *Krieg Alp*, passing close to a remarkable tower of rock, conspicuous from the *Äggischhorn*, called the *Kriegalpstock*. The valley of *Heiligenkreutz* forks at the village of the same name; the S. branch, leading to the Krieg Alp Pass, is followed up to the base of the *Kriegalpstock*. The path is not difficult, but is ill marked, and might easily be missed without a guide. From the summit there is a steep descent, with rocks on either side, until the head of a gully or ravine is reached, *on the rt. side* of which the descent is not difficult. There is no passage to the l.

These 3 routes meet at the châteaux of Ponte, from whence there is a paved mule-path down the *Val Devero*, fatiguing enough to the feet. The scenery is very beautiful. About half-way there was a little country Inn, called the *Osteria di Devero*, where a bed could be had; but this had been closed in 1859, and the Editor has not learned whether it has been since re-opened. Before reaching *Crosso*, the first village, a stream is passed on the l., which descends from an upland glen, inhabited by a peculiar German-speaking community. Their village is called *Agaro*, or *Ager*.

Passing through fine woods of chesnut and walnut, the path falls into the road of the Val Antigorio a little above *Cravaggia*, where poor quarters and civil treatment are to be found. About 2 m. farther is *Crodo* (see Rte. 62). It is a long day's walk to reach *Crodo* from *Viesch* by any of these passes. By the *Albrun* the distance may be accomplished in 12 hrs.' steady walking; the route by the *Krieg Alp* requires 13 or 14 hrs.; that by the *Col della Rossa* may (it is said) be accomplished in 2 or 3 hrs. less time.

d. To the lovers of high Alpine scenery the most interesting pass out of the *Binnen Thal* is that of the *Ritter* or *Boccareccio Pass*, reached from *Heiligenkreutz* by following the S.W. branch of the valley, called the *Mätti Thal*. A little above the village this again divides into 2 short valleys, or rather ravines, of which the one leading S.W., called the *Giebel Thal*, is followed up a steep but not difficult ascent. When the traveller has reached what he had supposed to be the summit of the pass, at the head of this valley, he finds himself at the lower extremity of an immense amphitheatre or cirque, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. in diameter, and surrounded by nearly vertical walls of rock, whose strata lie in horizontal lines, like courses of masonry, to a height of 1000 or 1200 ft. This wall is scaled about the centre of the amphitheatre by a stiff scramble, and the true summit of the *Passo del Boccareccio* (about 9500 ft. in height) is finally attained. On advancing a short distance on the S. side, the traveller is astonished to find himself at the summit of another amphitheatre, still more colossal in its proportions. A nearly circular space, about 3 m. in diameter, is surrounded by the highest peaks of this portion of the chain — the *Hillhorn*, *Bortelhorn*, *Furkebaum*; and, chief of them all, the *Monte Leone*. From the gaps between these peaks 5 glaciers descend, and here and there steep slopes of snow rest against the walls of the amphitheatre. It is by one of these snow-slopes that the descent is accom-

plished, for the rocks are too steep to be anywhere practicable. Several groups of *châlets* rest in the comparatively level space at the bottom of the *Cirque*. The chief of these, where there is a small chapel, is called *San Giacomo*; another group, higher up, is called the *Alpa Veglia*. If the traveller has started in the morning from *Viesch* or *Laax*, he will probably find it necessary to sleep at these *châlets*; but, if he has made *Binnen* his starting point, he may push on to better quarters, taking one of the herdsmen as guide, unless he be already well provided. If so disposed, he may return into Switzerland by the glacier which descends into the amphitheatre from the N. side of the *Monte Leone*, over which it is said that the *Simplon* road is reached a short way below the *Hospice*, without encountering any serious difficulty. In the opposite, or due E. direction, there is a passage to the *Val Bondoler*, a wild, uninhabited glen, leading into the *Val Devero*, a few miles above *Croveo*. The easiest course, however, is to descend the valley through which the *Cherasca* torrent rushes down to intersect the road of the *Simplon* near to *Isella*.

The passes above noticed deserve more attention than they have yet received. The *Val Devero* abounds in fine waterfalls and in picturesque points of view. The entire range is extremely interesting to the geologist.

## ROUTE 62.

PASS OF THE GRIES:—OBER-GESTELN TO DOMO D'OSSOLA, BY THE VAL FORMAZZA (POMMAT), AND THE FALLS OF THE TOSA.

Ober-Gesteln to		
Falls of Tosa (bridle)	. . .	7½ hrs.
Andermatten	" . . .	1½ "
Premia (char)	" . . .	11 miles
Domo (carriage)	. . .	15 "

A guide is necessary over the Col as far as Fruthval, or he may be dismissed safely when you have descended from the Col  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. Thus he may get home the same day, and back-hire be saved.

It is a mule-path, not dangerous, though it crosses a glacier, except in bad weather, when there is much snow on the col, but rather long and fatiguing. The traveller who follows it will be rewarded by scenes of much wildness and grandeur in the Val Antigorio and Formazza. The pass is quite practicable for ladies, who may ride across the glacier, which is unusually free from crevasses.

16 hrs. walk or ride, *Andermatten*, on the Italian side of the Pass, the best halting-place. The Baths of Crodo are tolerably good quarters.

In crossing the Nüfenen or Gries from Brieg it is useless to go to Ober-Gesteln. The traveller ascending the Valais can pass the Rhone by a bridge a little above Münster (*Inn* good), and reach the Eginenthal in an hour. The distance to the pass, however, is more by 3 or 4 m. than from Ober-Gesteln.

Below *Ober-Gesteln* (Rte. 28) a bridge leads across the Rhone, and the path follows the l. bank as far as

the village Im Loch, where it turns to the l., and begins to ascend the *Eginenthal*, a barren and uninteresting valley, crossing the stream of the Eginen above a pretty cascade 80 ft. high. A hard climb of about 2 hrs., first through larch-wood, then across a sterile, stony tract, and finally over a little plain of green meadow, dotted with the chalets of Egina, brings the traveller to the foot of the final and most difficult ascent. Near this point a path, striking off on the l., leads over the pass of the Nüfenen (Rte. 63) to Airolo. Here vegetation ceases, snow appears first in patches, and at last the glacier blocks up the termination of the valley, and the path makes a short cut over an elbow of it. It takes about 20 min. to cross. The direction of the path over it is marked by 2 or 3 poles stuck upright in the ice. Along the crest of the mountain runs the frontier line separating Switzerland from Italy. The summit of the pass is 8340 ft. above the sea.

In clear weather a magnificent view presents itself from this point of the chain of Bernese Alpa. The descent on the Italian side of the pass (as usual among the Alps) is steeper than on the N.; it is also more difficult. The upper part of the Piedmontese valley of Formazza, or Frutval, presents four distinct stages or platforms, separated by steep steps, or dips, from each other. The first is called Bettelmatt; the second Morast (morass), on which the miserable group of chalets called Kehrbächi (the highest winter habitations) are situated. The third is Auf der Fruth, with another hamlet of chalets, and a small chapel. Before reaching it, the traveller falls in with the river Toccia, or Tosa, which rises in the upper extremity of the valley, and terminates in the Lago Maggiore. Beyond the hamlet the path crosses to the l. bank of the stream, and, descending the fourth steep declivity, arrives at the

FALLS OF THE TOSA (a poor *Inn* here), the approach to which has for some time previously been proclaimed by the increasing roar of the water. It is one of the most remark-

able cataracts among the Alps, less on account of its form than for its vast volume of water, in which it is surpassed only by that of the Schaffhausen. It does not descend in one leap, but in a succession of steps, forming an uninterrupted mass of white foam for a length of perhaps 1000 ft., while the entire perpendicular descent is not much less than 500. Seen from below, it has a triangular appearance; above, not more than 80 ft. wide, and expanding gradually towards the bottom. It is the only Swiss fall combining great height with a large body of water.

2 m. below the Falls is the village of Fruthvald, situated on the 4th plateau. 2 m. farther are the villages of Gurf (Grovello) and Zumsteg (Al Ponte). Peter Sillig, of Frutval, is said to be a good guide. The inhabitants of the upper part of the valley, as far as Foppiano, are of German descent, speaking that language, and, according to tradition, descendants of a colony from the Entlebuch. Owing to this intermixture of languages, almost all the villages have a German as well as Italian name.

*Andermatten*, about 25 m. from Domo. \**Inn*: Rössel (Cavallo Bianco), clean but rough. Here is the principal church of the valley.

[From the head of the Val Formazza there is a pass, called the Passo di S. Giacomo, by which travellers from Domo d'Ossola or the Simplon to the St. Gothard may reach Airolo, by Hospital all' Acqua in the Val Bedretto. A mule-track, often faintly marked, leaves the Tosa just above the falls, and leads in about 4 hrs. to the poor inn at H. all' Acqua (Rte. 63). When free from clouds the view of the Gothard range from the top must be fine. Another track, still less frequented, leads from Formazza to Locarno on the Lago Maggiore, by the Val Maggia. It takes 8 hrs. walking by a fatiguing path over the Criner Furca (7837 ft.) to reach Cevio in Val Maggia. 1 hr. farther amidst

fine scenery is Bignasco (*Inn*, Post), from whence a country diligence daily starts for Locarno (3½ hrs.).]

The lower part of the vale of the Tosa abounds in exquisite scenery. The Gorge of Foppiano (Germ. Unter-Stalden), 5 m. below Andermatten, is particularly grand. Lower down it expands, and displays all the softer beauties of high cultivation, luxuriant vegetation, and thick population.

*Char-road* begins.

Below the village called *Premia*, 3½ hrs. from Andermatten, where there is a small *Inn* (All' Agnello), a stream descending from the W. joins the Tosa, and the valley changes its name into Val Antigorio.

"The savage grandeur of the Val Formazza, down which the river takes its passage, and the delicious region through which it rolls in the Val Antigorio, cannot be painted in too glowing colours. In these high valleys, fully exposed to the power of the summer sun, there is truly a 'blending of all beauties.' The vine, the fig, and the broad-leaved chestnut, and other proofs of the luxuriance of the soil of Italy, present themselves everywhere to the eye, intermixed with the grey blocks resting on the flanks and at the feet of the high granite ridge, out of whose recesses you have not as yet escaped. Instead of the weather-stained and simple habitation of the hardy Val-laisan, sheltered by the black belt of forest, upon which alone I had glanced yesterday, I now saw, on the southern declivity of the same range, the substantial Italian structure, with its regular outline, and simple yet beautiful proportion, and the villa, the handsome church, or the stone cottage, surrounded by its girdle of vines—the vine not in its stiff and unpicturesque Swiss or Rhenish dress, but the true vine of Italy and of poetry, flinging its pliant and luxuriant branches over the rustic veranda, or twining its long garland from tree to tree."—*Latrobe*.

This charming valley is the chosen retreat of numerous retired citizens, such as bankers, jewellers, &c., who



have built themselves villas in it. The mica-slate rocks occurring near Premia and San Michele are stuck as full of red garnets as a pudding is with plums. There are several timber-slides for bringing down trees from the high forests. The trees are floated down the Tosa, and thus conveyed to Milan. An excellent carriage-road, finely engineered (viaduct), has been carried up to Premia from Domo d'Ossola,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. good walking.

[For passes between the Val Antigorio and Viesch in the Valais see Rte. 61.]

At Crodo (Germ. Crot) (*Inn*, Leone d'Oro) is the Italian Custom-house. 2 m. below Crodo,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs.' walk below Premia, are the *Baths of Crodo*, a large and well-furnished house, opened 1848: charge en pension 5 frs. a-day, baths extra. The establishment is not very well managed, and passing travellers are charged unreasonably. The waters contain iron. A spring rises in the gardens. Near this are gold-mines. Carriages and horses may be hired here.

Below Crodo the carriage-road crosses the river twice before it reaches San Marco, and then enters the *Simplon road*, at the lofty and beautiful bridge of Crevola, near the Cemetery, at the junction of the Vedro with the Tosa. (Rte. 59.)

3 m. farther on lies *Domo d'Ossola*. (Rte. 59.)

## ROUTE 63.

PASS OF THE NÜFENEN (NOVENA), FROM OBERGESTELN TO AIROLO.

9 hours = 26 Eng. m. This is neither a difficult nor a very fine pass. The way is tolerably clear, and by travellers accustomed to mountains might in fine weather be found without a guide. It is a horsepath, ascending the vale of Eginen, as in Rte. 62, but, before reaching the Gries Glacier, turns to the l., and crosses the ridge of the

*Nüfenen*, 8022 ft. above the sea-level. Unlike the summit of the Gries, which is covered with a glacier, this pass has grass on its very top, which commands a fine view of the S. side of the Bernese Oberland mountains. The summit is a ridge, requiring 20 min. to cross, the highest part being on the Valaisan side. The path across is marked by poles. There is at times a good deal of snow on the other side. The path descends into the Val Bedretto, in places faintly marked, and scarcely distinguishable from tracks of cattle. On the S. slope of the pass one of the branches of the river Ticino takes its rise. The path descends along its l. bank to the

*Hospice all' Acqua*, a house of refuge to accommodate travellers, 5000 ft. above the sea, dirty and full of fleas, 3 hrs. walk from Airolo. The Hospitalier is a good guide. A path ascending rapidly through the rough pine forest, crosses the valley from this S. into the Val Formazza to the Falls of the Tosa,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.' walk (see Rte. 62). The Val Bedretto, from its elevation, has but an inhospitable climate; long winters, and frosts not

uncommonly in the height of summer, morning and evening. It is clothed with forests and pastures, from which its 612 inhabitants derive support in summer; while in winter the males migrate to Italy, to seek employment as servants. It is flanked on either side with glaciers, and is dreadfully exposed to avalanches (§ 17). The masses of fallen snow often remain unmelted on the margin of the Ticino till the end of September. At

*Bedretto* (small *Inn*), the principal hamlet, the church-tower, which has been once swept away, along with the parsonage, is now protected by an angular buttress, directed toward the side from which the avalanches fall, so as to break and turn them away. The valley leading to Airolo is very pleasing. In the lower part of the valley a scanty crop of rye is grown.

*Airolo*, in Rte. 34.

*Route reversed.*—From Airolo the path, which is good and partly paved, descends to the river, crosses it, and ascending to Villa recrosses the river, and chiefly through fields reaches

*Bedretto*. Here the river is crossed and recrossed to (1 hr. 20 min.) Hospice all' Acqua. Thence to the highest châteaux 1 hr., and to the commencement of the summit 1 hr. 20 min.; 2 hrs. 40 min. to the top of the pass. A descent of 30 min. leads into the Gries path; 3 hrs. Münster (Rte. 28). Total, 8 hrs. 50 min.

## ROUTE 65.

ZÜRICH TO RORSCHACH, BY ST. GALL  
—RAILWAY.

Zürich to	Eng. m.
Winterthur (Rte. 9) . . . . .	16½
Wyl . . . . .	17½
Flawyl . . . . .	27
St. Gall . . . . .	36
Rorschach . . . . .	45

3 Trains daily in about 4½ hrs. This rly. is continued to Coire (Rte. 66). The possible continuation of this line over the Lukmanier pass seems the most feasible of all projects for crossing the Alps by rly.

*Zürich* in 1 hr. to

*Winterthur Junct. Stat.*, in Rte. 9.

The rly. here leaves the Romanshorn line and follows the valley of the Töss as far as Elgg 7 m.; 6 m. farther it crosses the Murg and reaches

*Wyl Stat.*, a town of 2000 Inhab. with several convents (*Inn*: Schönthal); cotton-spinning; view of Sentis; it then crosses the Thur river on a lattice bridge 448 ft. long, and beyond Flawyl Stat. (*Inn*: Rössli) the valley of the Glatt by a lattice bridge of 3 arches 380 ft. long and 120 ft. high.

Bruggen Stat. 8 m. from St. Gall the valley of the Sitter is crossed by a wrought iron lattice Bridge, of clever device, 560 ft. long, in 4 arches or spans. It is raised upon cast-iron piers 200 ft. above the river, resting on stone foundations.

1. Lower down the stream is the *Krätzeren Brücke*, of 2 fine stone arches, erected 1810.

A long Tunnel is then passed through close to

*St. Gall Stat.* (St. Gallen). — *Inns* \*Hecht (Brochet, Zehnder's), excellent, good cuisine; Lion, very good, and thoroughly comfortable; Rössli (Cheval). A convenient place to make excursions from.

St. Gall, capital of the canton, is situated in an elevated valley on the banks of a small stream called the Steinach, 2081 ft. above the sea. Pop. 15,000 (4900 Roman Catholics). It is one of the principal seats of manu-

facturing industry in Switzerland. The manufacture of *Swiss muslins* is the most flourishing, but the spinning of cotton is also rapidly increasing. There are extensive bleacheries in the town, and the neighbouring slopes are white with webs. The embroidered curtains and ladies' collars are very pretty and cheap here.

The antique *walls*, however, which partly surround the town, and the ditch, now converted into gardens, recall to mind the ancient history of St. Gall. In the early part of the 7th cent. St. Gallus, an Irish monk, left his convent in the island of Iona, one of the Hebrides, and, after travelling over a large part of Europe converting the heathens, finally settled on the banks of the Steinach, then a wilderness buried in primæval woods, of which bears and wolves seemed the rightful tenants rather than men. He taught the wild people around the arts of agriculture, as well as the doctrines of true religion. The humble cell which the Scotch missionary had founded became the nucleus of civilization: and fifty years after his death, when the fame of his sanctity, and the miracles reported to have been wrought at his tomb, drew thousands of pilgrims to the spot, it was replaced by a more magnificent edifice, founded under the auspices of Pepin l'Héristal. This *abbey* was one of the oldest ecclesiastical establishments in Germany. It became the asylum of learning during the dark ages, and was the most celebrated school in Europe between the 8th and 10th centuries. Here the works of the authors of Rome and Greece were not only read but copied; and we owe to the labour of these obscure monks many of the most valuable classical authors, which have been preserved to modern times in MSS., treasured up in the Abbey of St. Gall; among them Quintilian, Silius Italicus, Ammian Marcellinus, and part of Cicero, may be mentioned. About the beginning of the 13th century St. Gall lost its reputation for learning, as its abbots exchanged a love of piety and knowledge for worldly ambition,

and the thirst for political influence and territorial rule. The desire of security, in those insecure times, first induced the abbot to surround his convent and the adjoining building with a wall and ditch, with 13 towers at intervals. This took place at the end of the 10th century, and from that time may be dated the foundation of the town. He and his 100 monks of the Benedictine order thought it no disgrace to sally forth, sword in hand and helmet on head, backed by their 200 serfs, in the hour of danger, when the convent was threatened by ungodly laymen. The donations of pious pilgrims from all parts of Europe soon augmented enormously the revenues of the abbots. They became the most considerable territorial sovereigns in N. Switzerland; their influence was increased by their elevation to the rank of princes of the empire; they were engaged in constant wars with their neighbours, and were latterly entangled in perpetual feuds with their subjects at home. These bold burghers, who, in the first instance, owed their existence and prosperity to the convent, became, in the end, restive under its rule. In the beginning of the 15th century the land of Appenzell threw off the yoke of the abbot; at the Reformation St. Gall itself became independent of him; and in 1712 the ecclesiastical prince was obliged to place the convent under the protection of those very citizens whose ancestors had been his serfs.

The French Revolution caused the secularization of the abbey, and the sequestration of its revenues followed in 1805. The last abbot, Pancratius Forster, died in 1829, a pensioner on the bounty of others, in the convent of Muri.

The *Abbey Church* (cathedral since 1846), of Italian architecture, was completely rebuilt 1766; it possesses, in the *Treasury* or Sacristy, some antique relics—the bell of the original hermitage, ch. plate, &c. Fine Organ.

The vast buildings of the *Monastery* date from the 17th and 18th centuries; and the part of it which formed

the abbot's *Palace* (*Die Pfalz*) now serves as a R. Cath. Seminary for teachers. The *Convent Library* (*Stifts Bibliothek*) still contains many curiosities, such as numerous Latin classics, MSS. of the 10th and 11th centuries, Greek New Testament of the 10th century, Psalms of the 9th century, various ancient MSS. either from Ireland or transcribed by Irish monks; the Gospels of Sinlaam, bound in ivory tablets; Palimpsests, 4th century; also a MS. of the *Nibelungen Lied*, and many letters relating to the Reformation.

*St. Laurent* is a 12th cent. ch., rest. 1858. *St. Mangen* is said to be a ch. of 9th cent. (?)

The finest edifices are the *Cantons School* or *Public Seminary*, on the road to Rorschach, containing the Museum and Town Library, and the *Orphan House*, outside the town, to the N.W.

At the *Casino Club* will be found an excellent *reading-room*.

*Post-office* near the Rly. Stat.

The *Freudenberg*, the neighbouring mountain on the S.E. of the town, commands from its summit, about 2 m. off, a fine panorama, including the lake of Constance and the mountains of St. Gall and Appenzell, with the Sentis at their head. A carriage-road leads up to the inn on the top.

*Excursion*.—From St. Gall to Trogen, Gais, Appenzell, Weissbad, and back to St. Gall—a delightful day's drive (Rte. 68).

*Rorschach*, on the Lake of Constance (Boden See, Rte. 8) (*Inns*: Hirsch, good and moderate; Post (Krone); Seehof; Gruner Baum.)—This is the chief station for the lake steamers, and close to the wharf is the important Terminus of the two rly. lines to Zürich and Coire. Friedrichshafen, the terminus of the rly. from Stuttgart and Ulm, and Lindau, the stat. for Augsburg and Munich, on the opposite shore of the lake, are each of them reached in about 1½ hr. The steamers also touch at the small town of Bregenz, in the Austrian province of the Vorarlberg, by which is the most direct way to the Tyrol. This little lake-port and town of 2650 In-

hab. is the principal corn-market in Switzerland, held on Thursday. The grain required to supply the greater part of the Alpine districts of N. Switzerland is imported from Suabia, in boats, across the lake, and is deposited temporarily in large warehouses here. Much muslin is made at Rorschach. There are extensive and convenient *Swimming Baths* 5 min. below the town.

On the slope, a little above the town, is the large dilapidated building, called *Statthaltery*, or Marienberg, a palace once of the proud abbots of St. Gall, now a government *School*. Its Gothic cloister, and vaulted refectory with bas-reliefs, deserve notice (date 1513). It commands a fine view from its terrace. Near it, perched on a projecting sandstone rock, is the desolate *Castle of St. Anne*, with its square keep. From the top of the hill, behind Rorschach (1 hour's walk), you may obtain a view over the whole lake, of the influx of the Rhine, and of the town of Bregenz.

The deposits of the Rhine are, it is said, forming themselves into shallows between Rorschach and Lindau, which may soon impede the direct navigation of the lake between these two places.

*Railway to Coire. Rte. 66.*

## ROUTE 66.

RORSCHACH TO COIRE, BY RAGATZ AND THE BATHS OF PFEFFERS.—RAILWAY.

	Eng. m.
Rorschach.	
Altstetten . . . .	16
Sennwald . . . .	26
Sewelen . . . .	37
Ragatz . . . .	48
Coire Terminus . . .	64

64 Eng. m. 3 trains daily, of which the fastest (the evening train from Rorschach) goes in 3 hrs. 20 min. (For information as to steamers see Rtes. 8 and 65.)

After leaving Rorschach the road skirts the foot of low hills clad with vineyards, beneath which the yellow-bellied pumpkins may be seen basking in the sun, but soon quits the margin of the lake to skirt the flat delta of the Rhine. The district around the mouth of the river abounds in marsh, and is by no means healthy.

A channel has been cut for the river into the lake. *Weinburg*, on the height, is the seat of the P. of Hohen-zollern Sigmaringen. Fine view from his park.

*Rheineck Stat.* (*Inns*: Brochet, Post; —Krone)—a village of 1370 Inhab., on the l. bank of the Rhine, about 4 m. above its embouchure, situated under vine-clad hills. There are several castles on the neighbouring heights.

*St. Margarethen Stat.*, a pretty village completely embowered in a grove of walnut and fruit trees, is situated near the *Austrian ferry, over the Rhine*, which must be crossed in going to Bregenz, or Lindau (see *Handbook for South Germany*); but it is not passable after dark. The railroad turns due S. up the valley of the Rhine, through a highly cultivated country rich in grain, especially maize, and abounding in orchards. The Rhine here is a wide, shallow, muddy, and unsteady stream, constantly changing its channel and overflowing its banks: it is not navigated except by wood-rafts, which float down it.

*Altstetten Stat.*—(*Inns*: Post; Rabe)—a town of 7293 Inhab., in a fruitful neighbourhood, and in a lovely spot commanding views of the Alps of Vorarlberg. There is a road from this over the hill of *Stoss* to Appenzell, by *Gais*, 2 leagues (Rte. 68), and *St. Gall*, 3 leagues. Those travelling on foot or on horseback should take the old road over the *Stoss*. The view from it over the Alps of the Vorarlberg is celebrated. Another road, over the *Ruppen*, leads in 3 hrs. to *St. Gall*, by *Trogen* (Rte. 68). The female inhabitants of the lower *Rheinthal* are all diligently occupied in tambering muslin; much of which goes to England.

*Oberried Stat.* (*Inn*: H. du Cheval)

to Feldkirch in Austria beyond the Rhine is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  post.

*Sennwald*, a village at the foot of the *Kamor* (5730 ft. high, 3 hours' walk, commanding a fine view over the Alps of Appenzell, Vorarlberg, the Grisons): an adjoining peak, a few feet higher, is called the *Hohenkasten*.

Down to the 17th century, the district which we now traverse belonged to the powerful barons of Hohen Sax, many of whose castles, reduced to ruins by the Appenzellers, may still be discerned upon the heights on the W. of the Rhine valley. One of this family, a brave and noble soldier, and a Protestant, escaped with difficulty from the massacre of *St. Bartholomew* at Paris, and on his return home was murdered by his nephew. After this foul deed, it is the popular belief that the blessing of God was withdrawn from the race: it is certain they never prospered. In 1616 their vast domains were sold to *Zürich*, and the family became extinct soon after. The body of the murdered man is still preserved in a perfect condition, in a coffin with a glass lid, dried like a mummy, under the church-tower of *Sennwald*. This circumstance, and the story connected with it, have given to the remains a reputation for sanctity; so that, though a Protestant, the Catholics have stolen some of the limbs as relics, and once actually carried off the body across the Rhine; it was, however, speedily reclaimed.

*Haag Stat.* Post-road across the Rhine to Feldkirch and Tyrol: rt. to *Wildhaus* and *Toggenburg* (Rte. 71). *Diligence* daily.

*Buchs Stat.* (*Inn*: Sonne). Above it rises

*Schloss Werdenberg*, seat of a noble family of that name, who played an important part in early Swiss history. It is a conspicuous white building, in good preservation, above the town. A cross road runs hence through the vale of *Toggenburg* to *Wyl* (Rte. 71).

*Sevelen* (*Inn*: Traube). Rt. on the height the ruined castle *Wartau*; l.

beyond the Rhine, lies Vaduz, capital of the principality of Lichtenstein (see Rte. 67); and at the entrance of the Luziensteig pass Schloss Gutburg. In the background rises the grey head of the Falkniss with its chaplet of snow: the whole landscape is splendid and full of variety.

*Sargans Junct. Stat.* The town of Sargans is passed a little on the rt. Here the road and the rly. from Wallenstadt and Zürich fall in. (See Rte. 14.)

*Ragatz Stat.* (*Inns:* Hof Ragatz, originally the summer residence of the abbots, and now a bathing establishment; usually overcrowded; not recommended for passing travellers. *Eng. Ch. service.* Hôtel de la Tamina, improved, a comfortable family hotel. Both houses are supplied with water from the hot springs of Pfeffers, conveyed hither in wooden pipes 12,500 feet long. Hotel kept by Anderes, clean and quiet. Schweitzer Hof. Ragatz is a village of 600 Inhab., situated at the mouth of the gorge through which the torrent Tamina issues out to join the Rhine. It thrives from its central position at the junction of the great roads from Zürich, St. Gall, Feldkirch, Coire, and Milan, and from its vicinity to the mineral springs of Pfeffers, which cause it to be much resorted to as a watering-place. There is an English chapel here. The philosopher Schelling (died 1854) is buried in the *Rom. Cath. Cemetery*. His monument was erected by the King of Bavaria.

[No one should omit to visit the OLD BATHS OF PFEFFERS (properly Pfäfers), situated a little way up the vale of the Tamina, one of the most extraordinary spots in Switzerland, accessible by a road cut in the rocks of the gorge. The distance, not being more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m., is performed in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an hour, and it takes only 20 minutes to return in a char. Small carriages wait at the station, and charge  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fr. for each person, to or from the baths. Those who are able

should walk; it is not possible to miss the way; you may reach the baths within an hour on foot. It is a delightful walk, the scenery very romantic; the torrent forming waterfalls at every step, and floating down the logs of wood. Much of the interest and original singularity of the spot, however, is destroyed by the improvement of the access to it.

The Old Baths are situated in two large piles of building connected together by a chapel. They are built on a narrow ledge of rock, a few feet above the roaring Tamina, and so deeply sunken between the rocks that they may be said to be half buried, so that in the height of summer, the sun appears above them only from 10 to 4.

The hot springs of Pfeffers were not known to the Romans. There is a story that they were discovered by a hunter, who, having entered into the abyss of the Tamina, in the pursuit of game, remarked the column of vapour arising from them. For many years nothing was done to facilitate access to them, and patients desirous of profiting by their healing virtues were let down to the source from the cliffs above, by ropes, and, in order to reap as much benefit as possible, were accustomed to pass a week together, both day and night, in them, not only eating and drinking, but sleeping, under hot water, instead of under blankets. The cause of the virtue of the water is not very evident, as a pint contains scarcely 3 grains of saline particles; it has a temperature of about 98° Fahrenheit. The patients are almost exclusively of the lower orders; those of the more opulent classes prefer living in hotels and lodging-houses in the sunny valley of the Rhine, outside the gorge, through which the mineral waters are now conducted in pipes to the baths.

The situation of the old baths is both gloomy and monotonous, hemmed in between dripping walls of rock, and shaded by dank foliage, with only a narrow strip of sky overhead, and with small space or facilities for locomotion and exercise, unless the patient will take the road



to Ragatz or scale the sides of the valley above him. To one fresh arrived from the upper world, its meadows and sunshine, a visit to Pfeffers has all the effect of being at the bottom of a well or a mine, except for a few hours at midday. The atmosphere is kept at one regular temperature of chilliness by the perpetual draught brought down by the torrent; and the solitary and imprisoned ray of sunshine which about noon, and for an hour or two afterwards, finds its way into these recesses, is insufficient to impart permanent warmth or cheerfulness. It is to be presumed that few English travellers would be disposed to make any stay here. A passing visit of a few hours will satisfy the curiosity of most persons. No one, however, should depart without visiting the

*Source of the hot spring.*

A few yards above the old baths, the sides of the ravine of the Tamina contract in an extraordinary manner, so as to approach within a few feet of each other; a little farther they even close over and cover up the river, which is seen issuing out of a cavernous chasm. The springs are reached through the bath-house, whence a bridge of planks across the Tamina leads to the entrance, which is closed by a door. The bridge is prolonged into the gorge, in the shape of a scaffolding or shelf, suspended by iron stanchions to the rocks, and partly laid in a niche cut out of the side. It has been much improved of late. It is carried all along the chasm as far as the hot spring, and affords the only means of approach to it, as the sides of the rent are vertical, and there is not an inch of room between them and the torrent, for the sole of a foot to rest. Formerly the passage was along two, sometimes one plank, unprotected by railings; at present a platform, 4 feet wide, furnished with a hand-rail, renders the approach to the spring easy for the most timid, and perfectly free from risk. Each person pays 1 fr.

for admittance. A few yards from the entrance, the passage is darkened by the overhanging rock. The sudden chill of an atmosphere never visited by the sun's rays, the rushing and roaring of the torrent, 30 or 40 feet below, the threatening position of the rocks above, have a grand and striking effect; but this has been diminished by modern improvements, which have deprived the visit to the gorge of even the semblance of danger. In parts it is almost dark, where the sides of the ravine overlap one another, and actually meet over-head, so as to form a natural arch. The rocks in many places show evident marks of having been ground away, and scooped out by the rushing river, and by the stones brought down with it. For several hundred yards the river pursues an almost subterranean course, the roof of the chasm being the floor, as it were, of the valley. In some places the roots of the trees are seen dangling through the crevice above your head, and at one particular spot you find yourself under the arch of the natural bridge leading to the staircase mentioned farther on. Had Virgil or Dante been aware of this spot, they would certainly have conducted their heroes through it to the jaws of the infernal regions.

The shelf of planks extends 700 yards from the baths. At its extremity, at the bottom of a cavern in the rocks, rise the springs, the temperature being about 100° Fahrenheit; the water is received into a reservoir nearly 15 feet deep, from which it is conducted in pipes to the baths. The first baths were miserable hovels, built over the spring, and suspended, like swallows' nests, to the face of the rock: the only entrance to them was by the roof, and the sick were let down into them by ropes and pulleys. Marks of these hovels are still to be seen on the rocks. The springs generally cease to flow in winter, but burst forth again in spring; they are most copious when the snow has fallen in abundance, and continue till autumn, after which their fountains are again sealed. The water has little taste or

small; it bears some resemblance, in its mineral contents, to that of Ems, and is used both for bathing and drinking.

After emerging from the gorge, at the bath-house, the traveller may ascend the valley above it by a well-marked track; ascending the steep l. bank, and then keeping to the l., and descending a little, he will in about half a mile cross by a natural bridge of rock, beneath which the Tamina, out of sight and hearing from above, forces its way into the gorge of the hot springs. A steep path or staircase (*Steige*) formed of trunks or roots of trees, on the rt. bank, is then met with, ascending which, you reach an upper stage of the valley, formed of gentle slopes, and covered with verdant pasture on one side, and with thick woods on the other. The two sides are separated by the deep gash and narrow gorge, along the bottom of which the Tamina forces its way. This is, perhaps, the best point for obtaining a general view of the baths and this singular spot in which they are sunken. On looking over the verge of the precipice, you perceive, at the bottom of the ravine, at the depth of 300 feet below, the roofs of the two large buildings, like cotton factories in size and structure. The upper valley, also, with its carpet of bright green, its woods, and the bare limestone cliffs which border it on either hand, and above all, the huge peak of the Falkniss, rising on the opposite side of the Rhine, form a magnificent landscape.

A char-road runs from the top of the *Steige* along the rt. bank of the Tamina, through a wood and meadows, to

The *Convent of Pfeffers*, a vast edifice, but not otherwise remarkable: it was built 1665, in place of one destroyed by fire. It encloses a church in the centre, like all the convents of the Benedictine order. It is finely placed on an elevated mountain-platform, commanding, on one side, the valley of the Rhine, backed by the majestic Falkniss; on the other, open-

ing out towards the lake of Wallenstadt and the peaks of the Sieben Kurfürsten. This Benedictine monastery, founded 713, was suppressed, after an existence of 10 centuries, in 1838, by a decree of the government of the canton of St. Gall, in consequence of the finances of the convent having become involved, and at the request of a majority of the brethren. The Government pensioned the abbot and the monks; agents of the canton took possession of the convent and all that belonged to it, and have converted it into a lunatic asylum.

The convent once possessed a very extensive territory; its abbots were princes; but the French, as usual, appropriated their revenues; and at the termination of the French rule, but a small part of their property was restored to them, including the baths. This is now appropriated to pious works, the education of the people, &c.

Near the convent stands the ruined castle of *Wartenstein*.

A pretty, but bad, char-road zig-zagging down through woods leads from the convent back to Hof Ragatz.

The pedestrian going to Coire need not return to Ragatz after ascending the *Steige*, but may pass the convent and proceed to the Untere-Zoll-Brücke; or he may proceed to Reichenau by *Kunkels* (see below, *d*).

The *Kalanda*, or Galandaberg (the mountain on the rt. bank of the Tamina, above the old baths, which separates the valley from that of the Rhine), is sometimes ascended on account of the view from its top—a 5-hours' climb. Rough accommodation for the night may be obtained at the chalets called *Obern Maiensäss*, about 2 hrs. below the summit. Many other interesting *Excursions* may be conveniently made from Hof Ragatz, but there appear to be no good saddle-horses.

*a.* To *Luziensteig*, a remarkable fortified pass, beyond the Rhine,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  league from Ragatz, between the Fläschberg and the Falkniss. The

ascent of the *Fläschberg* from *Luziensteig* is now made by a carriage-road reaching in succession the various forts, and the view from its top, and down the tremendous precipice which scarps one side of it, is very striking.

b. To the *Prättigau* and *Fideris* (Rte. 98), returning by the *Schalfigg*.

c. To the top of the *Graue Hörner*, an ascent requiring 5 hrs.—8760 ft.—whence you may see the Lake of Constance over the peaks of the *Kurfürsten*.

d. By the *Kunkels* pass to *Reichenau* on the *Splügen*. This pass is not very striking, but is a change from the high road. There is a tolerable char-road to *Vättis*, and in fact a char might be taken to the foot of the col. The char-road goes past the convent, but the pedestrian can go by the old baths, and ascend the *Steige*, the path from which falls into the char-road. The char-road proceeds along the rt. bank of the *Tamina*, past many small slate-works, to the hamlet of *Vadura*. The valley is here tolerably wide and fertile; soon afterwards however it contracts and becomes walled in with tremendous precipices on each side, pines growing on them wherever there is room. In 1 hr. 15 min. from the top of the *Steige* the valley turns to the rt. and opens out, then *Vättis* is reached, a small village at the entrance of the *Kalfeuser Thal*, where bread and wine, and perhaps a bed, might be procured. The path now keeps to the l. over green meadows, the bare precipices of the *Calanda* overhanging on the l. The numerous *châlets* of *Kunkels* are next reached, and then the foot of the col, where the l. path must be taken; and a steep ascent of 20 min. leads to the head of the pass. There is not much view from the col itself. Keeping again l., the path plunges into the ravine of *Foppa*, and by a very steep descent, affording occasionally fine views of the valley of the Rhine, *Tamins* is reached and then *Reichenau* (Rte. 87). Time, fair walking—

[Switz.]

Ragatz.	hrs.	min.
<i>Steige</i> . . . . .	1	0
<i>Vättis</i> . . . . .	2	0
<i>Kunkels</i> . . . . .	1	25
<i>Col</i> . . . . .	0	50
<i>Reichenau</i> . . . . .	1	20
Total . . . . .	6½	0

A French detachment crossed this pass in 1799, drove out the Austrians, and plundered *Tamins*.

e. The excursion up the *Kalfeuser-Thal* towards the glaciers of the *Sardona* is seldom made, but the scenery is very grand. As far as *Vättis* the path is the same as that over the *Kunkels*. There is a pass, said to be very difficult, over the *Sardona* glacier to *Flims* (Rte. 79).

f. Those who do not intend to cross the *Splügen* into Italy, ought at any rate to visit the *Via Mala* and may return in a long day.

The rly. now crosses the Rhine by a covered wooden bridge, and passes out of canton St. Gall into the Grisons, to

*Mayenfeld Stat.* (Inn: *Alte Post*), a little walled town immediately opposite to *Ragatz*, and about 12 m. from *Coire*, containing an ancient tower said to have been built in the 4th cent. by the Emperor *Constantius*. The valley of the Rhine has a grand appearance from this point. The peak of the *Falknis* is a conspicuous and striking object in the view to the N.E. The Rhine alone is unpicturesque, from the width of its bed and the large space of unsightly sand and gravel left bare in summer. Its bed is constantly rising, so as to threaten more fearful inundations; and a plan has been proposed, by *M. la Nicca*, of cutting a new channel for its unruly stream, from this point as far as the Lake of Constance. The railroad to *Coire* is carried along the rt. bank of the Rhine, crossing the

*Landquart* (Stat.), an impetuous torrent, descending from the valley of *Prättigau* (Rte. 98), which here enters the Rhine. Diligence to *Davos* daily. Beyond this, the Convent of *Pfeffers*

is visible from the road; the snowy heights of the *Calanda* rise into sight on the opposite bank of the Rhine; and the ruins of feudal castles, perched upon rocky knolls, overlooking the valley, give a highly picturesque character to the scene. One of the most conspicuous is Haldenstein, nearly opposite Coire.

*Zizers Stat.* (Inn: Krone), near which is Molinära, the country-seat of the Bishops of Coire.

From the valleys on each side between the mountains proceed torrents, which have borne down the debris of the mountains, and have thereby formed long hills, reaching to the Rhine. The highest parts of these hills, next the mountains, must be several hundred feet high, whence they gradually slope away. The road regularly ascends the hills, crosses the bed of the torrent at the top, and then descends.

*Coire Terminus* (Germ. *Chur*; Romansch, *Cuora*.)—*Inns*: \*H. Lukmanier, near the rly. stat., good and moderate;—Capricorn, or Steinbock, outside the town, civil people; good;—Weisses Kreutz (White Cross), and Freyeck, united. The wine of the Valteline is generally consumed in the Grisons, but *Completer*, which grows on the Rhine, near Malans, is very good, and should be tried here.

Coire, capital of the Grisons, the *Curia Rætorum* of the Romans, is an ancient walled town of 7560 Inhab. (1700 Rom. Catholics), about a mile from the Rhine, at the mouth of the defile of the Plessur river. Its prosperity arises from the high roads upon which it stands, which form the channel of communication from Italy into Switzerland and Western Germany. Coire is the staple place of the goods transported over the two great Alpine carriage-roads of the Splügen and Bernardin. It is the place of meeting of the Council of the Grisons; a member of which claims the title of "Your Wisdom" ("Euer Weisheit").

The town has narrow streets, and stands on uneven ground, at the en-

trance of the magnificent Glen of the *Schalfigg-thal*; some curious domestic architecture will be found in it. The *Bishop's Palace* and the quarter around it, inhabited by the Roman Catholics, occupy the summit of an eminence and are separated from the rest by walls and battlements, closed by double gates. Here is situated the *Ch. of St. Lucius*, or the *Dom*, an example of early pointed Gothic, including fragments of earlier buildings. It is entered from the W. by a round-arched portal supported on monsters. The choir is raised on steps, leaving open to the nave the crypt beneath, which rests on a single pier, whose base is a monster. The statues of the Four Evangelists, Janus-like, in pairs, standing upon lions, are very ancient. There are singular old carvings (altar-piece or reredos) and paintings, and monuments of the noble Grison families. There is a sacraments-house with metal door, and two other fine shrines, and some candlesticks of metal. In the sacristy are preserved the bones of St. Lucius, a British king, and the founder of St. Peter's Ch., Cornhill, and some specimens of church plate, a bishop's crozier, a monstrance of the 14th centy., shrines, &c.

The *Episcopal Palace* (Hof), near the church, is an antique building modernised; the staircase and halls are singularly decorated with stucco-work. The bishop's private chapel is in the heart of an old Roman tower called *Marsöl*, attached to the N.E. side of the palace. St. Lucius was put to death in this tower. In another wing is a rude Dance of Death, much mutilated. There is a second Roman tower, *Spinöl*, in an angle of the walls.

Behind the Palace is a kind of ravine, lined with vineyards, across which a path leads to the *Roman Catholic Seminary*, from which is a picturesque view of the town. There is a considerable collection of Romansch literature in the *Library of the Cantonal Schools*.

*Diligences* every day to Milan, by

the Splügen, in 29 hrs. (Rte. 87); to Bellinzona, by the Bernardin, in 17 hrs. (Rte. 91); to Samaden (daily) in 12 hrs.; to the Engadine, by Tiefenkasten, over the Julier Pass. (See Rte. 92.)

*The Romansch or Rumonsch Language.*

The *Romansch* (properly the *Ræto-Romansch*) language is one of those which, in the course of the middle ages, took their rise from the common or Rustic Latin (*Lingua Romana rustica*), spoken in different parts of the Roman empire in Europe. The Provençal of the S. of France is another, and the Wallachian (*Romouni*) is a third of these tongues still existing. The *Ræto-Romansch* was at one time spoken all through the Roman province of *Rætia*, which included the modern countries of the Grisons, the Tyrol, and the adjacent districts of Switzerland and S. Germany, where many *Romansch* proper names of places still remain, though the inhabitants speak German. Besides a considerable mixture of pure German, the *Ræto-Romansch* contains several hundred words, relating to Alpine life and occupations, derived from the aboriginal Alpine tribes, whom Livy asserts to have been related to the Etruscans.

The population of the Grisons, in 1850, amounted to 88,935, of whom about 50,000 speak *Romansch*, 30,000 German, and 8000 Italian (in the S. districts of Misocco, Bregaglia, and Puschio). As regards grammatical differences, the *Romansch* of the Grisons is divided into three principal dialects, which prevail in—1. The Upper Engadine; 2. Lower Engadine; 3. The Oberland, or country “above and below the forest.”

The literature of the *Ræto-Romansch* language dates back to the latter half of the fifteenth century, beginning with popular songs relating to warlike exploits, succeeded in 1525 by an epic poem by Johannes Travers, a chief actor in the events he describes. The first printed book was the translation of the New Testament into the

dialect of the Upper Engadine by Tachem Bifrun, a lawyer of Samaden. It was published 1560, and had great influence in the extensive spread of the Reformation through the whole *Rætian Valley* of the Inn. It was followed by other translations of the whole Bible, by books of prayer, catechisms, &c., throughout the *Romansch Grisons*; and the example set by the Protestants was quickly followed by the Roman Catholics.

Most of the inhabitants of the Grisons are bilinguals, who, if they speak *Romansch*, speak Italian or German likewise. The laws are written and the edicts of Government are published in *Romansch*, and there are two *Romansch* newspapers—‘*Amity del Pievel*’ (the Friend of the People), *ultramontane*, published at Coire in the dialect of the Oberland, and the liberal ‘*Gazetta d’Inngiadina*,’ in that of the Lower Engadine.

The traveller in the Grisons may be reminded that, the *Romansch* names of places, of two syllables, generally have the accent on the last syllable, as *Ardéz*, *Cernéz*, *Lavin*, *Mascín*, *Ragätz*, *Sargáns*, and that the *Romansch* names of many places differ materially from the German: *e.g.*, *Disentis*, *Rom. Muster*; *Brigels*, *Rom. Breil*; *Waltersburg*, *Rom. Uors*; *Ems*, *Rom. Dommat*.

*History and Government of the Graubünden or Grisons.*—It must not be supposed that the conspiracy on the Grütli, in 1307, and the exploits of Tell, gave freedom to the whole country now called Switzerland, or even influenced more than a very small part of it—the Forest cantons—except in as far as such a spirit-stirring example is capable of influencing the minds of a neighbouring people. For more than a century after the first Swiss union, that part of the country of *Rhætia* now called Grisons groaned under the tyranny of almost numberless petty lords, who, though they possessed but a few acres of land, or even no more than the number of square feet on which their castle stood, yet assumed the rights of independent sovereignty, waging perpetual petty war with their neighbours—oppress

ing their own subjects, and pillaging all travellers — the ancient form of levying duties and customs. The best notion of the state of society which existed during this period of the *Faustrecht* (club law), may be formed from the quantity of feudal ruins which stud not only the main valleys of the Rhine, but even the lateral valleys and gorges of the Rhaetian Alps. At last a day of retribution came. The peasants rose in revolt and threw off the yoke of the nobles—with less violence than might be expected, chiefly because the great ecclesiastical potentates, the Bishop of Coire, the Abbots of St. Gall and Disentis, and some of the more influential barons, sided with the peasants, directing, instead of opposing, the popular feeling.

The result of this was the Grison Confederacy (1471), quite distinct from the Swiss Confederacy, composed of *Three Leagues* (Bünden)—the Upper, or Grey League (Ober, or Graue Bund), 1424 (named from the simple grey home-spun coats of those by whom it was formed); the League of God's House (Ca Dè in Romansch, in Germ. Gotteshaus Bund), so called from the church of Coire, the head and capital of this league, 1396; and the League of the Ten Jurisdictions (Zehn-Gerichte), of which Mayenfeld is chief town (1428).

The government produced by this revolution presented a remarkable example of the sovereignty of the people and of universal suffrage. Not only every valley, but in some cases every parish, or even hamlet, in a valley, became an independent commonwealth, with a government of its own, with peculiar local administrative rights and privileges. Sometimes one of these free states, sometimes several together, formed a commune or *schnitze*, literally slice (*gemeinde* or *gericht*); each commune had its own general assembly, in which every citizen of the age of 18, sometimes younger, had a vote, and by which the magistrates and authorities, down to the parson and schoolmaster, were elected. With such a complication of machinery, it is difficult to understand how any

government could have been carried on; and we accordingly find the history of the Grisons little better than a long series of bickerings, feuds, revolts, conspiracies, massacres, intrigues, and peculations. The wisest decisions of the diet of the canton were annulled or frustrated by the votes of the general assemblies, accordingly as the interest or caprice of the most influential popular leader might sway these meetings at the moment. Two great families, those of Planta and De Salis, in the end, long monopolised the chief influence, as well as the patronage and offices of the federal government. Such was the *practical* result of this democracy of the purest form in *theory*.

Towards the end of the 15th centy. the Grisons concluded a permanent alliance with the Swiss, and in 1525 conquered Chiavenna and the Valtelline, the inhabitants of which they treated in the most oppressive and tyrannical manner until they were separated in 1798. In 1814 the Grisons became a Swiss canton.

A new local and administrative organization of the canton of the Grisons was introduced in June, 1851. According to this, the old historic names and divisions are abolished, and the canton is portioned out into 14 districts, 39 circles, and 205 communes or parishes.

## ROUTE 67.

### BREGENZ TO COIRE, BY VADUZ.

The direct route from the Tyrol to eastern Switzerland is by the high-road of the Vorarlberg, which quits the valley of the Inn at Landeck, and enters the valley of the Rhine at Feldkirch. Diligences from Landeck to Bregenz daily, in about 18 hrs. Pedestrians may reach Bregenz from



the Tyrol, or the Bavarian Alps, through the beautiful valley of the Bregenzer Ach, a mountain torrent which, after a course of about 35 m., falls into the Lake of Constance a little S.W. of Bregenz. The quickest way from Bregenz to Coire is to take the steamer to Rorschach, and the rly. thence to Coire (see Rte. 66). Those who wish to see the country may prefer to take the carriage-road along the rt. bank of the Rhine.

*Bregenz.* *Inns:* Oesterreichischer Hof; Post, or Goldener Adler; Schwarzer Adler; Krone. (See **HANDBOOK FOR SOUTHERN GERMANY.**) From 40 to 50 fr. is asked for a carriage to Ragatz, or to Mayenfeld, where the rly. to Coire crosses to the rt. bank of the Rhine. Diligence daily from Bregenz to Feldkirch. It is a drive of 7 leagues = 21 m. to *Feldkirch* (*Inns:* Post; Engel Gabriel), the frontier town of Austria, finely situated at the opening of the valley of the Ill, through which lies the high-road to the Tyrol. Travellers from Innsbruck or Botzen, bound for Coire, should take their places only to Feldkirch. About 1 m. out of the town the road quits the Austrian territory to enter the principality of Lichtenstein, one of the smallest sovereign States in Europe, measuring about 12 m. in length by 3 or 4 in breadth. The Prince has very large possessions in Austria, and usually holds a high position at the Court of Vienna, not caring to exercise in person his rights of miniature royalty. He is, however, a member of the Germanic Confederation, and contributes 55 men to the Federal army! The high-road traverses *Vaduz*, the capital of this minute State, and about 5 m. farther *Balzers* (*Inns:* Post), formerly a post-station, at the foot of the heights, which are crowned by the fortress of Luziensteig, contested between the Swiss and Austrians in the 15th centy. and Thirty Years War (1621-24), and in the war of the French Revolution (1799-1800). It was rebuilt 1830. Near Balzers is a ferry across the Rhine by which Ragatz is reached sooner than by Mayenfeld, 4½ m. far-

ther, and about 18 m. from Feldkirch, is Mayenfeld Stat. Thence to Coire by rly. (Rte. 66).

## ROUTE 68.

RORSCHACH, OR ST. GALL, TO GAIS AND APPENZELL; WITH EXCURSIONS TO THE WEISSBAD, THE WILDKIRCHLEIN, AND THE HOCH SENTIS.

The *canton Appenzell* lies somewhat out of the beat of travellers, completely surrounded (*enclavé*) by the territory of canton St. Gall, and shut in, at its S. extremity, by the Alps; on which side no great high roads pass through it. Appenzell itself lies in a cul-de-sac of the mountains, except for such as will traverse difficult paths over the high Alps and glaciers. On this account, it is but little visited by English travellers. It originally belonged to the league of Imperial Towns under a *bailli*, but in 1513 it joined the Swiss cantons as the 13th and last canton of Switzerland before 1798. The canton is divided into 2 parts or districts, called *Rhoden*, quite independent of each other, but enjoying only one vote at the diet. Outer Rhoden is a very thickly peopled district, having 8781 Inhab. to the Germ. sq. mile, who are Protestants. These are almost exclusively engaged in manufactures, chiefly of cotton, muslin, tambouring, &c. Inner Rhoden, on the contrary, is a land of herdsmen, and is Roman Catholic; its high and bleak mountains produce nothing but rich pasturage and sweet grass, upon which vast herds of cattle are fed. The government, in both states, is a pure democracy: the General Assembly,

or *Landesgemeinde*, is composed of every male born in the canton. In travelling through this somewhat primitive district, two unusual objects may attract the traveller's attention,—the pillory, by the road-side, furnished with a collar (*carcan*), a hole for the neck, a padlock, and a chain; and the bone-house, or *ossuaire*, in the churchyards, destined to receive the skulls and bones, which, after lying a certain number of years below ground, are dug up to make room for others; and, having been ticketed and labelled with the names of their owner, are laid out for show on shelves in the bone-house.

There is an appearance of prosperity, of cleanliness and neatness in *Ausser Rhoden*, which is very pleasing. The green hill-sides to their very top are studded with cheerful looking houses, the dwellings of the peasants. The villages of *Trogen*, *Tenffen*, and *Speicher* are highly interesting, for, though the houses are of wood, they are tastily and comfortably built, and most of them with a well-tended garden before them. In fact many persons of ample fortune reside in these little towns, much of the Swiss muslin being made or embroidered here for *St. Gall* houses. Every cottage is filled with females assiduously busied in embroidery. But a remarkable change greets the traveller, on entering Roman Catholic *Inner Rhoden*, from Protestant *Outer Rhoden*. He exchanges cleanliness and industry for filth and beggary. What may be the cause of this is not a subject suitable for discussion here. The *Appenzellers* are passionately fond of gymnastic exercises; and a part of every holiday is devoted to wrestling and boxing matches. Hurling the stone is another frequent exercise. A mass of rock, varying in weight from half to a whole cwt., is poised on the shoulder, and then cast forward a distance of several feet. In 1805 a man of *Urnäsch* hurled a stone, weighing 184 lbs., 10 ft. The *Appenzellers* are also capital shots: rifle-matches are held in summer on almost every Sunday, and the crack-

ing reports resound on all sides. The laws of the canton (especially of *Outer Rhoden*) restrict dancing to 3 or 4 days of the year; but, as the people are much addicted to this amusement, the law is frequently infringed, and the peasants will often cross the frontier of the canton in order to enjoy unmolested their favourite amusement. Being less overrun by strangers than other parts of Switzerland, the prices at inns, charges for guides, horses, &c., are lower than elsewhere.

Although the mountains of the canton *Appenzell* are not of the first order of magnitude, there are few districts in the Alps which will better reward the lover of nature who may be tempted to spend some days or weeks in exploring its recesses. For pedestrians arriving by the Lake of *Constance*, it offers the most direct and agreeable route for commencing a walking tour in the Alps. It is easily accessible by good carriage-roads from the E. and W.; and, though little frequented by English tourists, it is annually visited by large numbers of German and Swiss visitors, who chiefly come for the sake of the *cure de petit lait*, or *molken cur*, which is supposed to be very beneficial to health. This "cure" consists in a course of drinking goats'-whey, here called *schotten*, which is brought in large quantities every morning, still warm, to the establishments frequented by the seekers for health. There can be little doubt that benefit is often derived, but it may be allowable to believe that the pure mountain air, healthful exercise, and regular life, have as large a share in the effect as the goats'-whey. The principal establishments of this kind are at *Gais*, *Weissbad*, *Heiden*, *Gonten*, and *Urnäsch*.

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From the village of *Rorschach* there is a carriage-road for about 5 m., chiefly uphill (omnibus takes nearly 2 hrs.), to

*Wienachter Eck*. Here flags are

quarried out of the regularly stratified sandstone, and sent away into Germany and Holland.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. to *Grub Katholisch*, and then *Grub Reformirt*. From hence it is an hour's walk to Heiden, but pedestrians may go direct to Trogen, passing over the summit of the *Kaien*, a hill 3668 ft. in height, commanding a fine view. Turning to the rt., or somewhat W. of S., below ch. of the *Reformirt Grub*, the summit is reached in 1 hr.; descent to Trogen  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., or less.

*Heiden*. (*Inns*: Freyhof, good, rooms 7 fr. to 12 fr. a-week for persons making a stay; Lion (Löwe), clean and cheap; Krone; Linde.) In addition to the whey-cure there are mineral waters here, and it is much frequented during the summer. This pretty village (Pop. 2284), rebuilt since 1838, when it was burnt to the ground, lies in the midst of pleasing pastoral scenery, and many agreeable excursions may be made.

a. About 4 m. S. of Heiden from the little ch. of St. Anthony (*St. Antoni Capelle*), a beautiful view is gained, looking over the valley of the Rhine, and part of the Lake of Constance, and at the opposite ranges of the Vorarlberg and Lichtenstein mountains.

b. The top of the *Kaien*, above mentioned, is reached from Heiden in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. It is about 5 m. by a good road from Heiden to

*Trogen* (*Inn*: Schäfle), the seat of the government of Appenzell (Ausser-Rhoden). From hence to Gais there is a carriage-road by Bühler, making a considerable circuit; for pedestrians the more agreeable route is over the hill of the *Gäbris* (2 hrs. to Gais). Finger-posts are very numerous on the hills in this district, so that a pedestrian need rarely be at fault. The top of the *Gäbris* is much overgrown by forest; so that, although somewhat higher than the *Kaien*, and nearer to the high range of the Sentis, the view is less attractive, and few

travellers will think it worth while to turn out of the direct path, which lies over the shoulder of the hill, to

*Gais*—*Inns*: Ochs, largest; Lamm, clean and cheap; Krone. The bread is very good here. This little village of neat timber cottages, mostly converted into lodging-houses by the peasants their owners, irregularly scattered over lawn-like meadows, is situated in an open country, with nothing but green pastures around, at an elevation of 3000 ft. above the sea-level. Yet the reputation of its pure and bracing air, and of its cure of goats' whey, annually attract hither many hundred invalids from all parts of continental Europe; and during the season, in July and August, the principal inns are generally full.

The peasants' houses are particularly clean, trimly painted outside. The native songs of the cow-herds and dairy-maids of Appenzell are highly melodious; the music of the cows' bells is every where heard.

Gais lies in view of the Sentis and its chain; a noble object; and at the S. side of the *Gäbris*, which may be reached with little trouble in 1 hr. on horseback. Guide 2 fr.

Gais is the most central place in Appenzell, several roads meeting there:—

1. From St. Gall by Trogen (see above).

2. Another, more frequented, leaves the canton of St. Gall, and enters that of Appenzell (Ausser-Rhoden) a little before reaching, by an excellent but hilly road,

*Teuffen*—(*Inns*: Hecht, good; Linden; Bär). The inhabitants of this flourishing village of neat cottages are chiefly engaged in the manufacture and embroidery of muslin.

3. From Herisau (Rte. 69) a char-road, about 15 m., by Gonten and Urnäsch, where there are establishments for the whey-cure.

4. From Altstetten (Rte. 66). The new road avoids the higher part of the hill: on the old road, 2 m. to the E. of Gais, is the *Chapel of Stoss*, erected on the summit of the

steep pass leading down to the Rhine Thal, to commemorate the almost incredible victory gained by 400 men of Appenzell over 3000 Austrians in 1405. The Archduke of Austria and the Abbot of St. Gall had hoped to take the Swiss by surprise with this preponderating force. But a handful of the mountaineers, under the conduct of Count Rudolph of Werdenberg, assembled in haste, gave them battle, and defeated the invaders, with a loss of 900 men, losing only 20 of their own party. The blood of the slain is said to have discoloured the mountain-torrent which flowed past the battle-field as far as its influx into the Rhine. The view from the Stoss over the valley of the Rhine, 2000 ft. below, and of the snowy mountains of Tyrol and Vorarlberg beyond, is of the highest beauty.

A very steep descent leads from the Stoss to Altstetten rly. stat. (Rte. 66).

It is a distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. (there is a footpath shorter) from Gais to

*Appenzell* — (Inns: Hecht, good; Löwe.) Though the chief place of the district of Inner Rhoden, this is but a large village of 3286 Inhab., consisting of old wooden houses, with two convents, and a modern church attached to a Gothic choir, painted with representations of banners and flags taken by the Appenzellers in the 15th cent., and contains nothing remarkable. This place derives its name from the country-seat of the Abbot of St. Gall (Abten-zella, Abbatis Cella), having been anciently built here, when the country around was savage.

The *Landesgemeinde*, or Assembly of the canton, meets on a square, near a lime-tree, every year. In the Record Office, *Archiv*, are preserved a number of banners, conquered by the Appenzellers of old—the flags of Constance, Winterthur, Feldkirch; the Tyrolese banner and free ensign, inscribed “Hundert Tausend Teufel,” conquered at Landek, 1407; the Ge-

noese banner of St. George; and two captured from the Venetians, 1516, in the battle of Agnadel.

About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Appenzell is *Weissbad*, a homely boarding-house and bathing establishment, fairly well kept and beautifully situated in a retired spot, at the foot of the Sentis, surrounded by grounds, from which walks lead up the mountains. The house is capable of accommodating 120 visitors, but the visitors and accommodation are inferior to those at Gais.

In addition to the cure of goats' whey, there are mineral springs at Weissbad, and the bath-houses contain 80 baths.

*Excursions.*—a. To the *Alpensee*, 1 hour's walk: very pretty scene, suited for ladies.

Three small torrents, the Bären (or Sentis)-bach E., the Schwändebach S., and the Weissbach W., issuing out of 3 Alpine valleys deeply furrowed in the sides of the Sentis, in whose glaciers they take their rise, unite at Weissbad, and form the river Sitter.

b. About 5 m. up the middle valley,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour's walk, is the singular hermitage and chapel of the *Wäldkirchlein*. It is reached by crossing the Alpine pasture of the Bodmenalp, which, in spite of its elevation, is in summer a perfect garden, unfolding a treasure to the botanist, and affording the sweetest herbage to the cows.

In a recess scooped out of the face of a precipice, 170 ft. above these pastures, a little chapel has been perched. It was built 1648 by a pious inhabitant of Appenzell, and dedicated to St. Michael, and on that saint's day mass is celebrated here annually. A bearded Franciscan used to occupy the hermitage adjoining, and conduct strangers through the long caverns which perforate the mountain behind his dwelling. Now the innkeeper is the guide.

A door at the extremity of this rocky vault gives sudden access to

another fine pasturage, the *Ebenalp*, 5090 ft. above the sea-level, whose summit, where there is an *Inn*, is 20 min. walk from Wildkirchlein, commanding a far more extensive and a different view, extending over the Sentis, Kamor, Kurfürsten, the lake of Constance, and the Suabian hills. No one should omit going *through* the natural tunnel perforating the mountain.

c. The *Sentis*, the highest mountain in Appenzell, 8280 ft. above the sea-level, may be ascended from Weissbad in 4½ hours. The view from the top is much extolled, and a panorama of it has been engraved. Various paths lead up to it; the best and easiest, which is also perfectly safe in the company of a guide, leads by way of the *Meglisalp—Inn*—(3 stunden); *Wagenlücke* (2 stunden); to the summit (1 stunde).

d. From Weissbad to the *Hohenkasten*, which is the highest point of the *Kamor* range, is a walk of about 2½ hours. From the top (a small *Inn*) is a fine view over the Rhine valley, part of the Lake of Constance, the Alps of Vorarlberg. There is a path from Weissbad by Brüllisau, and thence by the *Kamor* or by the *Hohenkasten*, to Sennewald in the *Rheinthal*, in 5 hours.

Even without ascending to the summit of the *Kamor*, the traveller crossing the ridge has a delightful prospect over the *Sentis* and canton Appenzell on one side, and over the lake of Constance, Tyrol, and the Rhine, on the other. A 3rd path leads over to Sax in the *Rheinthal* from the lower end of the *Fakler See* at the head of the *Säntisthal*. None of these paths are easy to find without a guide.

A steep and rather difficult path, commanding some fine views, leads S. over the ridge of the *Sentis* by the *Krayalp* from Weissbad to Wildhaus, the birthplace of Zwingli, in Toggenburg (Rte. 71), in 7 hrs.; whence in another day *Wesen*, or *Wallenstadt*, may be reached. The paths are difficult to find without a guide.

## ROUTE 69.

ST. GALL TO UZNACH, BY HEINRICHSBAD AND HERISAU.

3½ posts = 30 Eng. m.

	Posts.	Eng. m
St. Gall.		
Herisau . . . .	4	= 5½
Wattwyl . . . .	1½	= 15½
Uznach . . . .	1	= 9

Diligences twice daily in 6 hrs. to Uznach. From thence rly. to Zurich or Coire.

This is a very agreeable drive through a well-planted hilly country, presenting here and there distant views of the higher Alps.

About 2 m. from St. Gall, a little beyond the village of Bruggen, the road crosses the gorge of the Sitter by the magnificent *Krätzeren Brücke*, a bridge 590 ft. long, and 85 ft. above the stream, built 1810. It is eclipsed by the more colossal rly. iron lattice bridge, 580 ft. long, 164 ft. high, on 3 cast-iron piers. A little after we enter canton Appenzell.

[About a mile to the N.E. of Herisau is the watering-place called *Heinrichsbad*. The *Badhaus* is an elegant establishment surrounded by agreeable pleasure-grounds, the creation of one Heinrich Steiger, a rich manufacturer. Two springs rising out of gravel, and variously impregnated with iron, carbonic acid, &c., are used for drinking, and to supply the baths. Goats' whey and asses' milk are also furnished to those invalids for whom they are prescribed. Accommodation

in a cowhouse is provided for invalids suffering from diseases of the chest. The neighbourhood is exceedingly picturesque.]

*Herisau*—*Inns*: Löwe (Lion), the best; Hecht (Brochet)—an industrious village of Ausser-Rhoden, contains 9600 Inhab., stands 2334 ft. above the sea, and is advantageously situated at the junction of two streams, the Glatt and Brühlbach, which turns the wheels of its numerous manufactories. It is a very singular place from its extraordinary irregularity of construction. There are beautiful walks on the surrounding heights; two of them are topped by ruinous castles, the Rosenberg and Rosenberg, which, according to the story, were once connected together by a leathern bridge. The lower part of the *Church Tower*, in which the Archives are deposited, is the oldest building in the canton, dating probably from the 7th century.

The articles chiefly manufactured here are muslins, cottons, and silk, the last a recent introduction: 10,200 persons are employed in Ausser-Rhoden in weaving muslins, and a very large number in embroidering them.

The *Hundsryler Tobel*, a very singular gorge or chasm, deep and wild, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Herisau, deserves to be visited.

There is a direct road from Herisau to Appenzell (Rte. 68), by Waldstadt ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours); Urnäsch ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ), and Gonten (1): in all 5 stunden = 15 m.

#### *Schönengrund.*

Through an undulating country, we reach the frontier of Appenzell, and re-enter that of its grasping neighbour, St. Gall, before arriving at

*Peterzell*: 3 m. beyond the ruined Castle of Neu-Toggenburg lies

*Lichtensteig*, (*Inn*: Krone,) a town of 744 Inhab. on the rt. bank of the Thur, the ancient county of Toggenburg. A picturesque and handsome old *Place*, composed of lofty buildings with porticoes, forms the principal street.

The valley of the Thur is studded

with factories and with the country seats of their proprietors.

*Wattwyl* (*Inns*: Lion d'Or; Rössli), a pretty manufacturing village, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. farther, stand the convent of Santa Maria and the Castle of Iberg.

The road soon after surmounts the steep ascent of the ridge of Himmelwald. From its top a beautiful prospect expands to view; in front the lake of Zürich, with the castle, town, and bridge of Rapperschwyl, in full relief on its margin; behind it the pine-clad and snow-topped Alps of Schwytz and Glarus; on the E. the remarkable peaks of the Sieben Kühfirsten, and behind the fertile vale of Toggenburg (Rte. 71). The road divides on the opposite side of the hill.

*Uznach* Stat. (Rte. 13).

## ROUTE 71.

### WYL TO COIRE. THE TOGGENBURG.

7 $\frac{1}{2}$  posts = 70 $\frac{1}{2}$  Eng. m.

	Wyl.	Posta.	Eng. m.
Wattwyl	. . . 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	=	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nesslau	. . . 1	=	9
Wildhans	. . . 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	=	10
Haag	. . . $\frac{1}{2}$	=	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coire	. . . 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	=	31 $\frac{1}{2}$

*Diligence* daily in about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  hra. from Wattwyl to the Haag Stat. on the rly. from Rorschach to Coire (Rte. 66). *Post road.*

*Wyl* on the railway from Winterthur to St. Gall (Rta. 65). (*Inn*: Schonthal, or Post.)

The road, after leaving Wyl, continues on the l. bank of the Thur, to Dietfurth, where it crosses the river to



*Lichtensteig* and *Wattwyl* (Rte. 69). From *Wattwyl* the *Speer* may be ascended in about 4 hrs. (Rte. 13).

*Ebnat* (Inns: *Sonne*; *Krone*): 2400 Inhab.; cotton manufactures.

*Toggenburg*, as the long and fertile valley of the *Thur* is called, extends for nearly 40 m., from *Wyl* up to the source of that river, and a splendid specimen of a Swiss valley it is, embracing within its range almost all the various features of Alpine scenery, save that there is scarcely a tract of level alluvial bottom to be found in its whole extent; its sides being everywhere steep or undulating. It is bounded by high mountains; on the N. by the *Sentis*, and on the S. by the peaks of the *Kurfürsten*. It was anciently governed by counts of its own. When their line became extinct, 1436, the district was claimed by canton *Zürich*, and a memorable war on the subject ensued, in which the Swiss cantons for the first time fought with one another. It finally, in 1469, fell to the abbot of *St. Gall*, whose successors had continual disputes with the inhabitants, especially after the Reformation. In 1712 the abbots, after much fighting, were expelled, but restored in 1718. Since 1803, the *Toggenburg* has formed part of canton *St. Gall*. It is thickly peopled; its inhabitants, an industrious race, are chiefly occupied with the manufacture of muslin and cotton.

*Nesslau* (Inn: *Krone*), a scattered village. Pop. 2400. Ascent of the *Speer*. Through a defile to *Stein*.

*Alt St. Johann* (Inn: *Hirsch*), in a wild district. The river *Thur* rises at *Unter-Wasser*, at the foot of the *Alte Mann*.

Upon the high ground dividing the valley of the *Thur* from that of the *Rhine*, stands the remote village

*Wildhaus* — (Inn: *Sonne*, *Hirsch*), 3450 ft. above the level of the sea, and at the S. base of the *Sentis*, between it and the 7 *Kurfürsten*. It is remarkable only as the birthplace of the Swiss reformer, *Ulrich Zwingli*. The house in which he first saw the light (Jan. 1, 1484) still exists in the hamlet of *Lisighaus*. It is an humble cot-

tage of wood; its walls formed of the stems of trees, its roof weighed down by stones to protect it from the wind. It has resisted the inroads of time for more than 350 years; and the beams and trunks which compose it are black with age. *Zwingli's* family were peasants; he quitted home when 10 years old, to go to school at *Bâle*.

[There is a steep pass over the *Kray Alp* from *Wildhaus* to *Appenzell*, by the *Stiefelschlucht* and *Sentis*; 8 hrs., rather difficult.]

The road, surmounting the *Semmer Tobel*, descends by two sweeping zigzags into the valley of the *Rhine* near *Gams*, and soon after reaches

*Haag Stat.*, on the rly.

Thence by *Werdenberg Stat.* on the rly. to

*Coire* (Rte. 66).

## ROUTE 72.

### WESEN OR RICHTERSCHWYL TO SCHWYTZ — EINSIEDELN — MORGARTEN.

	Miles.
Wesen to Lachen . . .	15
Lachen to Schindelegi . . .	8
<hr/>	
Richterschwyl to Schindelegi	3
<hr/>	
Schindelegi to Rothenthurm .	7
Rothenthurm to Schwytz .	8

Total, Wesen to Schwytz, 38 m.; Richterschwyl to Schwytz, 18 m.

Diligence from Richterschwyl to Schwytz, and to Einsiedeln, and from Wesen to Lachen.

The road from Wesen after crossing the *Linth* keeps by the side of the hills to *Lachen* (Inn: *Bär*), a village of 1200 Inhab., on the margin of the lake of *Zurich*. It thence passes through *Pfäffikon* near the long bridge of *Rapperschyl*, and soon afterwards begins to ascend the steep slope of the *Etzel* or *Teusisberg*, and crosses the *Sihl* at *Schindelegi*, ascending

again. Many delightful views are obtained in ascending, over the lake of Zürich, and the summit commands a good view of the Mythen (Mitres), Rigi, and other mountains in that direction. The holy hermit Meinrad, the founder of Einsiedeln, originally fixed himself on the top of the Etzel, but the concourse of people attracted to the spot by his reputation for holiness drove him in search of solitude deep into the wilderness. A little *chapel* stands on the spot supposed to have been occupied by his cell. Near it is an inn. From this chapel the first view of Einsiedeln is obtained; the descent thither occupies  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour.

[The road from Richterschwyl immediately begins to ascend and joins the other at Schindelegi.]

A mile and a half from Schindelegi is

*Biberbrücke (Inn)*. Here the road to Einsiedeln turns off to the l. Passengers by the diligences on the main road, have a scramble for seats with those that arrive from Einsiedeln.

[The road is studded at intervals with chapels called *stations*, each containing a representation of some event in the Passion of our Lord, at which the pilgrims may stop and tell their beads.

EINSIEDELN (French, Notre Dame des Erémites; Lat., Monasterium Eremitarum). *Inns*: Pfau (Paon); clean and good; the charges are raised during the pilgrimage. There are in all 55 inns and 20 alehouses here, mostly designed for the reception of poor pilgrims, and distinguished by a singular variety of signs.

The Abbey of Einsiedeln, which forms the nucleus of a village of a few hundred inhabitants, rises high on a naked undulating plain 3000 ft. above the sea, producing little but pasture. It is partly sheltered by a range of wooded hills on the S.E.

The *Monastery* itself, an extensive building in the modern Italian style, is imposing, less from its architecture than its size and its situation in so remote and naked a solitude. The existing edifice dates from the 18th

century (1719), and is the 6th or 7th raised on this spot since the first foundation of the abbey, the others having been destroyed by fire. It occupies a stately site upon the hill side, separated from the humbler buildings of the village by a wide square.

The origin of the abbey is thus accounted for in the histories published under the authority of the monks:—In the days of Charlemagne a holy anchorite named Meinrad, of the noble house of Hohenzollern, repaired to this remote wilderness (then called the Finsterwald) to end his days in solitude and prayer, devoting himself to tend a little black image of the Virgin which had been given to him by St. Hildegarde, abbess of Zürich. This holy man was murdered by two robbers in 861; but their foul deed, which they had hoped would escape detection on a spot so remote from the haunts of men, was brought to light by two pet ravens reared by Meinrad, which pursued the murderers with croaking cries, and flapping wings, over hill and dale, as far as Zürich, where their guilt was detected, and they suffered for it on the place now occupied by the Raven inn. The reputation of sanctity, however, surrounding the spot where the saint had lived, increased so much after his death, that his cell was rebuilt, and a church founded by a community of Benedictine hermits (Einsiedlern). The first abbot was Eberard, and it is affirmed by the monkish legend, and perpetuated in the bull of Pope Pius VIII., that when the Bishop of Constance was about to consecrate the church on the 14th of September, 948, he was aroused at midnight by the sounds of angelic minstrelsy, and was informed next day, by a voice from heaven, that there was no need for him to proceed with the sacred rite, as the church had been already consecrated by the powers of heaven, and by the presence of the Saviour! The Pope pronounced this a true miracle, and, in consideration of it, granted plenary indulgence to all pilgrims who should repair to the shrine of Our Lady of the Hermits, in the

words inscribed upon the church, "Hic est plena remissio peccatorum à culpâ et à poenâ." The consequence of this has been that during 9 centuries there has been an almost uninterrupted influx of pilgrims from the surrounding countries to this shrine, and of wealth to the monastery. In process of time these pious benefactions increased its revenues and domains to an enormous extent; it ranked second to St. Gall alone of all the monasteries in Switzerland. Its abbot became a prince of the holy Roman empire, with a seat in the diet. He had his hereditary officers, his chamberlain, marshal, and cup-bearer; and these posts were filled by personages of noble or princely rank. He also enjoyed the right of criminal jurisdiction and the power of life and death in several parishes and circles. Down to the 16th century the abbots themselves were of noble families.

The French revolutionary invaders of 1798 stripped Einsiedeln of its resources and treasures, and carried off the figure of the Virgin to Paris; but the monks, on abandoning the convent, transported with them into Tyrol a duplicate figure, which they assert to be the authentic original. Notwithstanding these untoward circumstances, the abbey remains at the present day the richest in Switzerland, and the Black Virgin, whether an original or a copy, has lost none of her reputation. The average annual number of pilgrims who receive the sacrament in the church is 150,000. In the course of the year 1700 there were 202,000; in 1861 about the same number; in 1834, 36,000 pilgrims repaired to the shrine within a fortnight. The great feast-day is Sept. 14. Many of the pilgrims are deputies paid by others, wealthier sinners, to do penance for their principals, who remain at home, and a pilgrimage thus performed by proxy is considered equally efficacious with one made in person.

The convent contains about 100 Benedictine monks, including lay-brothers, novices, &c.

In the square in front of the convent stands a fountain with 14 jets of

water, from all of which the pilgrims drink, as it is traditionally reported that our Saviour drank from one, but from which of them is not known. In the centre of the pile of conventual buildings stands, as is usual in Benedictine monasteries, the *Church*, which has been compared with that of St. John Lateran at Rome. The interior is somewhat gaudily ornamented with inferior paintings, marble and gilding. A few feet from the entrance stands the *Shrine* or *Chapel of the Virgin*, of black marble, with a grating in front, through which, by the glare of an ever-burning lamp, the spectator perceives the palladium of the temple, a little black figure of the Virgin and Child, attired in gold brocade, glittering with jewels, and bearing crowns of gold on their heads. The space in front of the shrine is rarely free of worshippers, and commonly hundreds, nay, at times, thousands of devotees may be seen prostrate before it. The walls of this part of the church are covered with votive tablets, rude paintings in oil, on which no kind of accident or misfortune is omitted, though they are chiefly devoted to representations of escapes from fire and water, all effected by the supposed miraculous interference of the image. Its influence, however, is not limited to incidents of private life, many of the great events of history, such as the victory of the Roman Catholic cantons at Kappel, are classed among the triumphant interpositions of our Lady of the Hermits. 250 new votive tablets were hung up in 1835, older ones being removed to make way for them.

In the *Chapel of the Magdalene*, a church of itself in size, on the l. of the choir, are 28 confessionals, over each of which is written the language in which confessions will be received in it, either German, Italian, French, or Romansch.

The *Treasury*, once so rich in church plate, was plundered by the French in 1798, and one splendid monstrance alone remains, but it is not readily shown. The monastery includes, besides the lodgings for the Abbot and the brethren, a handsome refectory,

a kitchen, an hospital, a *library* containing 26,000 vols., a museum containing some fossils and minerals, a free school and boarding-school, the pupils of which are taught by the monks, and a large cellar running under the greater part of the edifice. During meals, passages of some approved author, such as Lingard's History of England, Cobbett's History of the Reformation, &c., are read aloud to the assembled brotherhood, and even at times portions of newspapers.

Zwingli, the reformer, was curate of Einsiedeln from 1516 to 1519. Theophrastus Paracelsus von Hohenheim was born here, or in the neighbourhood, in 1498.

There is a rough foot path under the Mythenberg (Mitres hill), called the *Hacken*, by Alpthal, from Einsiedeln to Schwytz, shorter than the carriage-road. It takes 4½ hrs. to walk: no guide is needed. Near the top is an inn, from which the peak, called *Hochstüchli* (4470 ft.), is ½ hr's. walk.

The carriage-road to Schwytz makes, at first, a considerable détour: the footpath is shorter, crossing the Katzenstrick, a large tract of upland meadow or common, direct to Altmatt.]

*Rothenthurm* (Inn dirty and extortionate; it is better to stop at Lachen), a village of nearly 800 Inhab., is the place of meeting of the general assembly of the canton Schwytz, convened here every two years, in the open air, on the first fine Sunday in May. The Landamman is president, and every citizen above the age of 18 has a vote. These meetings afford no favourable specimen of the working of universal suffrage, as they frequently terminate in rioting and violence. For example, in May, 1838, 9000 voters collected here; the show of hands was declared to be in favour of the government; but the Liberal party being dissatisfied with the result, a battle ensued, in which the hustings were broken and many persons much injured. The democrats, enraged at their defeat, published a manifesto,

calling on the "Liberals to meet in their districts, and expel the rich from their assemblies as their ancestors expelled Gessler, since the government of the rich has become a government of murderers."

Rothenthurm receives its name from a Red Tower still standing and forming part of the defences of a long wall or rampart, erected by the Schwytzers along their W. frontier, to ward off the inroads of their lordly and lawless neighbours. It extended hence as far as Arth.

About 2 m. W. of Rothenthurm, on the confines of the canton of Zug, easily reached by a road turning to the rt. between Rothenthurm and Ecce Homo, leading to the little chapel of St. James, on the borders of the lake of Egeri (Rte. 15), is MORGARTEN, memorable in Swiss annals as the scene of their first struggle for independence; as the spot where the chivalry of Austria were worsted, and their leader, Duke Leopold, compelled to fly with disgrace, on the 15th of November, 1315, 8 years after the expulsion of the Austrian bailiffs. Fired with the hope of revenge and with feelings of hereditary hatred, the duke led on his mail-clad cavalry along the narrow strand between the lake and the hills. Just where the ascent into the upland country of Schwytz commences, running up a narrow defile, the Austrians were met by the confederates, a mere handful of men in comparison with their host, but of hardy frame and resolute spirit, posted on the ridge of the Sattel, near Haselmatt. The first bold charge of the Swiss, rushing on with swords and clubs, was aided by a discharge of rocks from the heights above, which quickly threw into confusion the ranks of heavy-armed knights. They attempted to fall back, but their evolutions were prevented by the infantry pressing on in their rear. Without room to manœuvre, or even to turn (for the naturally confined margin of the lake was at that time diminished by an unusual increase of its waters), the proud knights were totally at the mercy of their light-armed foes. Many, in order

to escape the sword, perished by plunging into the lake; the rush of the cavalry overwhelmed the infantry behind, and in a short time the whole army was thrown into panic and disorder. The Austrians lost the flower of their nobility, and Leopold with difficulty escaped. This astounding victory, the Marathon of Swiss history, was gained in 1½ hr., over a force of 20,000 well-armed men, by 1300 mountaineers, who now for the first time met an army in the field.

The appropriate memorial of their success erected by the Swiss was, according to custom, a *Chapel*, dedicated to St. James; and service is performed in it annually, on the anniversary of the fight.

The little village of *Biberegg*, on the opposite (E.) side of Rothenthurm, was the cradle of the family of Reding, one of the oldest and noblest in the canton, and whose name appears oftener with credit than any other. There is scarcely a battle in which they are not mentioned, and they have 45 times filled the office of landamman, the highest in the state. In 1798 Aloys Reding, a hero worthy of such an ancestry, led on the brave inhabitants of these mountains to oppose, in defence of their liberties and constitution, a far outnumbering force of French under General Schauenberg. The Swiss met the invaders in the valley of Rothenthurm, and drove them back as far as the lake of Egeri and the field of their ancient victory of Morgarten. This proved but a temporary gleam of success. Their victory had cost them so large a number of men, that they were unable to renew the contest; and an overwhelming force of French marching into the canton rendered all further resistance hopeless.

A long descent, commanding a fine view of Schwytz, of the singular and picturesque Mythen (Mitre) mountains behind it, and of the lake of Lowertz, with part of the fall of the Rossberg (Rte. 17), leads through Sattel, past the chapel of Ecce Homo, to *Steinen*, a small village, having two *Inns* (*Rössli*, *Krone*), memorable as the

birthplace of Werner Stauffacher, one of the three conspirators of the Grütli, nearly 4 hours' drive from Einsiedeln. A small *chapel*, adorned with rude frescoes of scenes from his life, and the battle of Morgarten, is dedicated to his memory. It was built in 1400. The *Bonehouse* is as old as 1111.

*Schwytz*. (Rte. 17.)

[Travellers bound from Einsiedeln to the Rigi or Lucerne need not enter Schwytz. Soon after leaving Steinen, a path branching off to the rt. leads, in about 1½ hour, to Goldau (Rte. 17).]

## ROUTE 73.

SCHWYTZ TO GLARUS, BY MUOTTA, THE PRAGEL PASS, AND THE KLÖNTHAL.

	Stunden.	Eng. m.
<i>Schwytz</i> .		
Muotta Thal . . . . .	3	= 9
Summit of the Prigel . . . . .	3½	= 10½
Richisau . . . . .	1½	= 4½
Vorauen . . . . .	1	= 3
Glarus . . . . .	3	= 9
	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 36

These are the distances as reckoned in the country, and a horse will require at least 12 hrs., but a good walker will accomplish the distance in 10½ hra. There being a carriage-road from Schwytz to Muotta, and a good road from Vorauen to Glarus, those who can walk 6 leagues have no need of horses, and will be better off without them. The regular charge for a horse from Schwytz to Glarus is 25 fr. (including return fare), but advantage is taken of travellers arriving at Brunnen or Schwytz to demand a higher rate. A guide to

Glarus 5 fr., and 5 fr. return fare. A pedestrian can, for 2 fr., hire a boy at Muotta to show the way as far as Richisau, beyond which no guide is needed. There is a footpath rather shorter than the char-road from Schwytz, by which Muotta may be reached in 2½ hrs. The road crosses the plain to Ibach, a village of scattered houses at the mouth of the Muotta Thal, which here assumes the character of a contracted gorge; higher up it opens out, and exhibits considerable capabilities for cultivation. The road ascends the l. bank of the stream, traversing Ober Schönenbach, down to which point the Russians, under Suwarrow, drove the French commanded by Massena, Mortier, and Soult, in his desperate attempt to force his way through them to join the Russian army at Zürich, in 1799. The stone bridge (long since swept away by the torrent and replaced by a covered wooden bridge at a higher elevation) near this, which carried the road over to the rt. bank, was taken and retaken many times; the mingled blood of the two nations crimsoned the stream which swept down their floating bodies.

Beyond *Ried* there is another bridge, near which is a pretty waterfall, and a third brings the traveller to

*Muotta Thal*, or *Mütten* (a neat and cheap little *Inn*, *Zum Hirsch*—between the church and the bridge), the principal village of the valley, on the rt. bank of the stream. The parish contains 1480 Inhab. In the neighbourhood is the *Nunnery of St. Joseph*, a very ancient and primitive convent, founded 1280. The sisters are poor, and their mode of living homely; they make their own clothes and their own hay; the superior is called *Frau Mutter*. They receive visits from strangers without the intervention of a grating, and will even give a lodging to a respectable traveller. Whoever avails himself of this must remember that the convent is too poor to afford gratuitous hospitality. They speak no French.

From Muotta a path leads by the Kinzig Culm to Altorf. It was by this path that Suwarrow brought his

troops. Another pass leads by the Bisi Thal to Stachelberg (Rte. 75).

On the night of Sept. 27th and 28th, 1799, the inhabitants of the remote and peaceful valley of Muotta were surprised by the arrival of an army of an unknown nation and tongue, whose very name many of them had never heard, which came pouring down upon their cottages and green fields from the heights of the Kinzig Culm, by paths and precipices usually resorted to only by a solitary shepherd. These were the 24,000 Russians under Suwarrow, whose march out of Italy is recounted in Rtes. 34, 75, and 80. Here the general first heard the news of the defeat of Korsakow and the main Russian army at Zürich. He at first gave no credence to the report, and would have hung the peasant who communicated it as a spy and traitor, but for the intercession of the lady mother of St. Joseph's nunnery. He was now beset on all sides; part of Lecourbe's division followed his rear, Molitor occupied the summit of the Muotta Thal, and Mortier and Massena blocked up its mouth. The bold attempt to cut his way out, through the forces of the latter general, was defeated, as already mentioned, chiefly by the unexpected arrival of a fresh reinforcement under Lecourbe in person, though with vast loss to the French. The veteran conqueror was compelled, for the first time in his career, to order a retreat, and to adopt the only alternative of crossing the Prigel into Glarus. The detachments of Molitor's advanced guard were quickly driven in before him, and the greater portion made prisoners. Suwarrow's rear-guard, however, encumbered with sick and wounded, was greatly harassed by Massena; but the republicans were again repulsed with loss, and driven back nearly to Schwytz. Suwarrow expected to be able to reach Zürich from Glarus; there to join and rally the broken forces of Korsakow; but Molitor, in person, warned of his approach, took possession of the position of Näfels, blocking up the outlet



of the Linth Thal, as Massena had intercepted his passage down the Muotta Thal, and the Russian once more found his plans foiled and baffled. Fearing to be hemmed in on all sides by the French, he gave his troops a few days of rest at Glarus, rendered absolutely indispensable by the fatigues they had undergone, after which he once more took to the mountains, ascending the Sernft Thal (Rte. 80) and crossing the Panixer Pass to the Grisons.

A little beyond the nunnery, at the end of the village, the view into the Bisithal is very beautiful.

The Prigel pass is exceedingly steep and stony on the Muotta side, and sometimes marshy, and is scarcely fit for horses, which moreover are not easily to be found at Muotta. There are no difficulties on the Glarus side. There is no need for a guide in clear weather, as the pass is much used by the natives.

From the inn at Muotta the path continues for about 25 min. among the fields and houses, then crosses the stream which descends from Prigel, and immediately ascends rapidly its l. bank, very rocky and rugged for the first 2 hrs., after which and at the top there are large marshy or boggy patches with planks and stones laid across them. There is nothing striking in the scenery on this side.

The Col of the Prigel (5200 ft.) is flat; there is a chalet where bread, wine, &c., can be procured, but it is abandoned in the first week of Sept., and snow is said to melt late and fall soon on the pass.

The first part of the descent is gentle, but in about 20 min. the Klönthal opens, and the valley is partly blocked up by a huge barrier, which appears to be an ancient moraine; the path makes a détour to the left to avoid this obstacle, and then descends more rapidly through pines to

Richisau, where there is a clean rustic Inn, kept by civil people.

The Klönthal, into which the traveller now descends, is exceedingly beautiful. On the rt. hand it is walled

in by the *Glärnisch* rising in an abrupt and sheer precipice, terminated by a sharp edge of ice, and on the l. by the Wiggis, scarcely less abrupt. It is a charming walk of less than an hour down hill, chiefly over green pastures and meadows, to

Vorauen, where there is a very good country Inn, kept by F. Weber, an attentive landlord. A country cart with seats can generally be obtained here; but it is a better plan to make this the sleeping-place, and proceed next morning to Glarus. The landlord has a boat upon the lake, by means of which the walk may be shortened 2 m., and the scenery seen to perfection. Deep in the recesses of this charming valley lies the *Klönsee*, a lake about 2 m. long, embedded deeply at the foot of the Glärnisch, whose vast grey precipices descend at this point almost perpendicularly into the water. It is surrounded by meadows of the most verdant green, covered until the end of autumn with flowers. The precipitous tracks along the side of the valley, along which some adventurous French pushed forward in pursuit of the Russians, are pointed out. Ebel calls the Klönthal "une des vallées les plus gracieuses qu'il y ait dans les Alpes." Two Swiss have inscribed on a rock at the foot of the Glärnisch, by the side of a waterfall, an epitaph in memory of Solomon Gessner, the pastoral poet, author of the 'Death of Abel,' who used to repair hither from Zürich, and spend the summer in a chalet.

The Vorauen appears to be a favourite excursion from Glarus, and is a good starting point for the ascent of Glärnisch; and there is an excellent char-road from it. The char-road follows the l. bank of the lake for about 3 m., and then begins to descend into the valley of Glarus. Keeping to the rt. where two roads meet, the manufacturing village of *Riedern* is reached, from which the road, or a footpath on the rt. over the hill, leads to

Glarus (Rte. 74).

## ROUTE 74.

## WESEN TO GLARUS AND THE BATHS OF STACHELBERG.

Railway from Wesen to Glarus; trains 5 times a-day, in 30 m.

The canton of Glarus, or Glaris, consists of one great Alpine valley, and of several secondary or tributary valleys, branching off from it, and penetrating deep into the high Alps. There is but one carriage-road into it, which terminates, after a distance of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  leagues =  $19\frac{1}{2}$  Eng. m., at the baths of Stachelberg; and for carriages there is no egress save the portal which has admitted the traveller. It is a truly Alpine district, abounding in very wild scenery.

The railroad from Wesen crosses the Linth canal (Rte. 13), and enters the jaws of the valley of Glarus, flanked by precipices almost perpendicular, and backed by the vast mass and snowy head of the Glärnisch Mountain.

[The road from Rapperschwyl to Glarus passes through Lachen on the S. side of the Lake of Zürich, and along the l. bank of the Linth canal to Nieder-Urnen, where that from Wesen joins it.]

*Näfels Stat.* — (*Inns* : Hirsch ; — Schwerdt) — in the gorge of the valley, a village of 1800 Inhab., and the chief place in the Roman Catholic division of the canton, is a Swiss *battle-field* of some celebrity. 11 simple stones, inscribed 1388, set up on the meadow of Reuti, hard by, mark the spot where, in that year, 1300 men of Glarus met a force of 6000 Austrians, who, having taken Wesen by treachery, had burst into the canton, ravaging and plundering the country as they advanced. When tidings of this reached the ears of Matthias am Buhl, the lands-captain, he hastily

collected a handful of shepherds, and not only checked the career of the foragers, in spite of the disproportion of numbers, but after 11 distinct charges, aided by volleys of stones and rocks discharged from precipices above, which threw the Austrian cavalry into confusion, finally repulsed the invaders, with a loss of 2500 of their number left dead on the field.

The anniversary of the fight of Näfels is still celebrated through the canton by an annual festival. An engagement took place at Näfels, in 1799, between the Austrians and French.

From *Mollis* (*Inn*, *Bär*) the village opposite Näfels, the river Linth is conducted into the lake of Wallenstadt by the artificial canal constructed by Escher (see Rte. 13). In the churchyard of Mollis the heroes of Näfels are buried.

The valley of the Linth is subject to much danger and injury from its sudden rises, and the swelling of its tributary torrents. The broad fringe of unsightly sand and gravel visible on both sides of the Linth, the common drain of the district, will show what mischief that river occasions after storms of rain, and during the melting of the snows. The whole of the lower part of the valley is at times converted into a lake; and the little patches of ground, which have cost the peasant much hard labour and care to cultivate, are at once overwhelmed and ruined. The limestone mountains of this district abound in caverns, which serve as reservoirs for the melting glaciers. In the spring and early summer, the rocks appear to stream from every pore, while every gorge and hollow sends forth a raging torrent.

Glarus was formerly subject to the Abbey of Säkingen, to which rights Austria succeeded. Glarus joined the Swiss cantons in 1352, and after the battle of Näfels gained partially its independence; and towards the end of the 14th centy. the canton purchased the extinction of feudal rights, and finally made peace with Austria. The Reformation divided the canton and occasioned severe struggles and fight-

ing. In 1798 the canton lost several dependencies. It contains 33,460 Inhab., 5860 Roman Catholics, all speaking German.

*Glarus* (Glaris, Fr.)—(*Inns*: Glärner Hof; clean, but rather dear and noisy;—Rabe;—Railway Restaurant). This little town (Pop. 4826), capital of the canton, is chiefly remarkable for its secluded situation at the base of the Glärnisch and Schilt, encompassed and shut in by the Alps, whose bare and bleak precipices and tops contrast remarkably with the milder verdure about their base. The inhabitants are distinguished by their industry and enterprise, which has converted Glarus into a place of manufactures, especially of cotton, printing of muslins, &c.

They possess a *Club* (Casino), a modern house of fine masonry, and a *Free School* for 700 children, erected by private subscriptions, and reflecting much credit on the public spirit of the citizens. The Gothic church, with 2 spires, is open to Protestant and Romanist alike. Zwingli was the pastor here, 1506 to 1546. The Linth is crossed by 2 bridges.

The *Burghugel*, an eminence surmounted by a chapel, commands the best view of the town, the green meadows around, and the arid limestone mountains Glärnisch (7175 ft.), Wiggis (7030 ft.), Hansstock, and Karpfstock.

In 1861 Glarus was all but utterly destroyed by fire. At times a tremendous wind called the *Föhn* sweeps down the valley of Glarus with the concentrated force of a furnace-blast. It is so much dreaded, that local laws have existed for generations, by which, on its setting in, every fire in the town, including those used for purposes of industry, must be extinguished. The very day before the fire occurred, the propriety of repealing these laws had been considered by the assembled inhabitants of the canton, and by an almost unanimous resolution it was resolved

to maintain them. It was during a visitation of this dreaded wind that a stray spark was carried from one house to another, and a fire kindled, which was not extinguished till more than two-thirds of the town were laid in ashes. All the principal buildings were burned to the ground, and 3000 of the population left houseless.

The name *Glarus* is a corruption of *Hilarius*, a saint to whom a shrine was built among these mountains at a very early period.

The *green cheese* called *Schabzieger* is peculiar to the canton Glarus. It owes its singular appearance, rank smell, and flavour, to an herb (*Melilotus cærulea*, blue melilot: Germ. Honigklee), which is partly cultivated for this purpose in gardens within the canton, and partly imported from others. To fit it for use, it is dried, ground to powder, and, in that state, mixed with the curds. The cheese is made of cows' milk. The curds are brought down from the high pastures into the valley in sacks, and, after having a due proportion of herb incorporated with them, are ground in a mill resembling that used for making cider. After being thoroughly kneaded by this process for an hour or two it is fit for pressing. The cheese is ripe for use after a twelvemonth's keeping.

Beyond the Linth, in the village of Enneda, is the huge cotton-mill of Jeune and Co.

It is a pleasant 2½ hrs. drive or walk from Glarus to *Obstalden* or Narexen, where is a fine view over the whole lake of Wallenstadt and part of that of Zürich. A broad road leads thither from Mollis. N.B. The charge for horses, guides, and porters in the valley of Glarus is very high, and the beasts are very bad.

Mountain paths from Glarus.

a. The Prigel pass (Rte. 73) by the Klönthal into the canton Schwytz through a beautiful pastoral valley: the finest part of it is not more than 8 m. from Glarus, and may be reached in a char.

b. Two mountain-paths lead to the Lake of Wallenstadt; one, by the

*Kerenzenberg* over the W. shoulder of the *Mürtschenstock* (Rte. 13); the other, to *Murg*, passing under the E. side of the summit. The ascent of the *Mürtschenstock* may be easily combined with either of these excursions. A guide should be taken.

c. Two passes lead through the *Sernft Thal* to the valley of the *Vorder Rhein*:—

(1) The *Segnes Pass* (Rte. 79).

(2) The *Panixer Pass* (Rte. 80).

d. Three passes lead into the Canton St. Gall, which, like the last, are reached through the *Sernft Thal*:—

(1) The *Flumser Pass*, diverging from the village of *Matt*, to the *Flums* stat. on the rly. between *Wallenstadt* and *Sargans* (Rte. 14).

(2) The *Riseten Pass*, from *Matt* to *Sargans*, said to be easy.

(3) The *Ramin Pass*, from *Elm* to *Sargans*, more difficult than the last, about 10 hrs. walk.

The baths of *Pfeffers* may be reached by either of the last-mentioned passes, by crossing the ridge between *Weisstannen*, and the *Kalfeuser Thal*. The main object, however, with most travellers who visit *Glarus* is to reach *Lint-thal* and *Stachelberg*, up the valley of the *Linth*, where first the *Glärnisch*, and, higher up, the *Dödi*, with its snowy satellites, are objects of extreme grandeur and beauty.

*Stachelberg* is one of the best headquarters for the lovers of grand Alpine scenery. Numerous *Excursions* of more or less difficulty may be made, and passes, hitherto rarely frequented by travellers, lead in various directions. The principal of these are described in Rtes. 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79.

The people of the canton *Glarus* have exhibited the national propensity to prey upon strangers as strongly, but with less intelligence, than elsewhere in Switzerland. A few years ago prices were much lower than in the canton *Berne*; but since tourists have become more numerous, exorbitant demands are often made for guides, horses, &c. Up to a recent date, the peasant proprietors at the head of the valley had resisted the

continuation of the char-road, or even the making of bridges over the torrents, because they find it a good speculation to employ their children to lay planks over the streams, a service which the wayfarer can scarcely refuse to reward!!

It is about 13 m. by a good road from *Glarus*, through many villages, and by numerous cotton factories and charming scenery, to

*Lint-thal* (*Inns*: *Zum Bären*, cheap and fair; *Löwe*). Pedestrians may prefer this to the hotel at *Stachelberg*, which is dearer and a little more distant from the *Pantenbrücke*, and the head of the valley. The *Diligence* crosses the river below *Lint-thal*, and will leave or call for strangers proceeding to the large *Hotel* and *Baths* of *Stachelberg*, a tolerably well-managed house, but often overcrowded, built on an eminence on the W. side of the *Linth*, surrounded by torrents, rocks, and glaciers. It has greatly risen in repute as a watering-place, and on account of the exquisite beauty of its situation, and the virtues of its concentrated alkaline sulphureous spring, which distils, drop by drop, from a fissure in the *Braunberg*, is much resorted to. The period of the "cure" is fixed at between 20 and 24 days. The hotel is surrounded by walks and pleasure-grounds. It is resorted to by a mob of holiday-makers on Sundays, when the house is very noisy.

The valley of the *Linth* abounds in fine waterfalls. Less than a mile from the Baths are the Falls of the *Fätschbach*. About 1 hr. above *Lint-thal* is the much finer fall of the *Schreyenbach*, of the *Staubbach* kind, which when seen from below appears to issue from the sky. At the bottom it spreads over 30 yards of rock, coming down in a shower of water-rockets. It is well worth while to turn aside from the regular path to the *Pantenbrücke*, in order to approach the fall on the opposite side of the river.

A little further on is a clean little *Inn* (*H. du Tödi*).

The most interesting excursion from *Stachelberg* is that to the head of the

valley, where the Linth escapes from the glaciers that lie around the peaks of the *Tödi*, *Biferten Stock*, *Schserhorn*, &c. Above the baths the vale of the Linth becomes grander and more savage; at length the bed of the river contracts into a chasm, in the depths of which it worms its way, while a narrow and steep path alone leads along the edge of the precipice. 5 miles up (1½ hours' walk), at a spot where the gorge is deepest, is a singularly bold bridge of one arch of stone, 20 ft. span, and 140 ft. above the torrent. The original arch, the *Pantenbrücke*, was swept away by an avalanche, 1852. The gorge above the bridge becomes even more romantic and wild; it is surpassed by few in the Alps.

About ½ hr. above the bridge a tributary torrent joins the Linth on the E. side, through a channel, but a few yards in width and many hundreds of feet deep, cut into the mass of the *Selbsanft* mountain, which rises grandly in tier over tier of precipices to a height of about 10,000 ft. Beyond this the path crosses to the W. side of the stream, and the gorge opens out a little. After crossing some slopes of disintegrated slate at the base of the *Gemsistock*, another bridge carried the path back to the E. bank, and a little farther the châteaux of the *Lower Sand Alp* are reached—1½ hr. from the *Pantenbrücke*—where milk and butter may be obtained. From this point, about 4000 ft. above the sea, the views, though confined by the rocks which rise steeply around, are extremely striking. Nearly due S. is the magnificent, but rarely visited, *Biferten glacier*, enclosed by the precipices of the *Biferten Stock* and *Plattalpa* on the E., and the *Tödi* on the W. It sends down its torrent, the *Bifertenbach*, to join the main stream, here called the *Sandbach*, a little below the higher châteaux. The *Sandbach* is seen to flow from an upper plateau W. of the *Lower Sand Alp*, and descends the precipitous rocks on that side of the valley in a magnificent cascade, one of the finest in the Alps.

It is not, however, well seen from any point easy of access.

The path to the *Upper Sand Alp*, or *Oberstaffel*, after crossing the *Bifertenbach*, ascends in zigzags the steep slope of the *Ochsenblanke*, and at the summit crosses the *Sandbach* just above the waterfall. In ½ hr. (2 hrs. from the lower châteaux) the châteaux of the *Upper Sand Alp* are reached.

The position of these châteaux is striking and beautiful. They stand at about 6000 ft. above the sea, in the midst of bright green pastures, surrounded by rugged snow-capped peaks. The position is an admirable one for expeditions over the neighbouring glaciers, and travellers occasionally sleep there. They are, however, but comfortless quarters; the fleas are even more numerous than usual, and there have been complaints of incivility and extortion. Future travellers must recollect that such châteaux are frequently not occupied by the same men in successive seasons, and, at the same time, that what has appeared to these herdsmen to be lavish payment received from one traveller has encouraged them to make unreasonable demands upon others. From the *Upper Sand Alp* it is possible to reach *Amsteg*, in the valley of the *Reuss*, crossing the glaciers of the *Clariden Grat* (Rte. 34), and descending through the *Maderanertal*. The route is said to be difficult, and requires good guides, ropes, &c. For a traveller intending to sleep at the upper châteaux, the best route from the *Lower Sand Alp* is to follow up the *Bifertenbach* to the foot of the *Biferten glacier*, and then wind round the *Ochsenstock* to the pastures of the *Upper Sand Alp*. A guide should be taken. In the way back to *Stachelberg*, the route may be varied by ascending the *Beckistock*; then, passing over the shoulder of the *Gemsistock*, the path is rejoined near the *Pantenbrücke*.

[The *Dödi* or *Tödi* (11,880 ft.) is the giant of this portion of the chain of Alps, and its summit had been rarely

ascended until 1863, since when its ascent has become popular. Th. Thut and Gab. Voegeli are guides.]

## ROUTE 75.

MUOTTA TO THE BATHS OF STACHELBERG, BY THE BISI-THAL; OR TO ALTORF, BY THE KINZIG KULM.

The parallel valleys of the Muotta, which falls into the Lake of Lucerne near Brunnen, and the Schächen, which joins the Reuss near Altorf, are separated by a rugged range of mountains, a spur from the main range forming the W. boundary of the Lint-thal, whose extremities are the Axenberg, impending over the Bay of Uri (Rte. 18), and the Scheyenstock over Stachelberg. Two glens diverging to the southward from Muotta run up into this wild district. That to the E., called the Bisi-thal, leads to Stachelberg over the shoulder of the Scheyenstock, while the western glen leads over the Kinzig Kulm to Spiringen, in the Schächen-thal, about 1½ hr. from Altorf. Neither pass presents scenery of the first order, but the first is a short cut from Muotta to Stachelberg. The pass of the Kinzig Kulm has some fine scenery, besides the historical interest connected with it, to interest travellers, but it does not lie conveniently in the route between any two frequented places.

From Muotta to Stachelberg is a laborious walk of 9 or 10 hrs. A good horse-path leads up the *Bisi-thal* to the hamlet of Eigen; the scenery is very wild; it is much narrower than the Muotta Thal, with overhanging precipices, and well wooded. In 2½ hours the path reaches

*Eigen*, a scattered hamlet. Beyond this the path is practicable only for the pedestrian. No one should attempt this without a guide. After leaving

the Bisi Thal the scenery is the most savage conceivable. The summit of the mountain between the valleys, across which the path runs, is a rugged sunken plain of bare rock, many miles in extent, without vegetation of any kind except on a central green oasis (a little verdant plain), where the soil has collected, the whole surrounded by snowy peaks. The path is only traceable in many parts by the little piles of stones put up by the shepherds to guide themselves; and the streams, instead of finding their way into the valley as usual, tumble in cascades into the bowels of the mountain. This arises from the strata of the rock being perpendicular, or nearly so, which has also caused the soil to be washed down by the rain, leaving the upturned strata of the rock naked and bleached by the weather, something like a crevassed glacier turned to rock, and rugged in the extreme. On the side of the Linth-Thal this savage plain is bounded by precipices which overhang the baths of Stachelberg, and it is flanked by two bold peaks right and left. The descent to the Baths is very steep and fatiguing: there is no inn by the way.

From Muotta to the *Kinzig Kulm* the track leaves the path to Eigen near the opening of the Bisi Thal, ascending nearly due S. "The ascent is continued obliquely up a steep broken slope, till the path arrives eventually upon the wooded edge of a chasm, in which the invisible stream, which issues from the high valley leading up to the Pass, is heard descending in cataracts into the Muotta Thal. A track up the mountain side, on the right bank of this stream, is now pursued: and, after an hour's walking from Muotta, the abrupt ascent ceases, and the valley above is entered. Having passed through a wood, the path crosses the river for the first time by some chalets (1½ hour from Muotta). The river is recrossed after another quarter of an hour: a second forest is traversed, and a third bridge crossed (2½ hours from Muotta). The part of the valley



below this bridge is narrow and picturesque, shut in on both sides by high white precipices. Over the E. range the sun did not appear, on the last day of July, till 8 o'clock. The rich green slopes N. of Muotta, speckled with chalets, and surmounted by vast cliffs, may be seen from favourable positions, whenever the eye is thrown back, through the opening of the valley. After the third bridge is crossed, a wild open basin is found, out of which the track is seen ascending from the S.W. corner. At this corner the river is again crossed.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. more are requisite before the summit of the pass is attained. As far as some chalets, about half-way up, the path may be traced without much difficulty, as it takes for its guide the falling stream, now reduced to a mere rill. Towards the summit, however, it is faintly marked, and liable to be confounded with other tracks. The stream is left behind, the direction of ascent being towards the south, among little hillocks and hollows filled with snow; over open ground, where many directions might be taken, and the proper route lost. A short pole marks the crest of the Pass (7280 feet), which is gained in about 4 hrs. from Muotta.

"Great interest is attached to the Kinzig Kulm, in an historical point of view, as being the scene of Suwarrow's disastrous march from Altorf in 1799. Having pounced down, as it were, upon the French from the heights of the St. Gothard, and driven them before him to Altorf, he there found his progress barred by the lake of Lucerne, without a boat to cross it, his troops exhausted by fatigue and famine, and the country so completely drained by war as to be quite incapable of supporting them. The only alternative that remained to him, was to attempt to join the forces of the allies, through the horrible defile of the Schächen; and to cross the rarely-trodden summits of the high Alps. The only passage up this valley was by a mere path; so that his army was obliged to advance in a single file, abandoning much of

their artillery and baggage. Their march lasted 14 hours; and before the rear-guard had left Altorf, the van had reached Muotta. Many of the Russians sank from fatigue by the wayside, and perished; others fell into the hands of the French, who hovered in their rear; the valley was strewn with dead bodies of men and horses, with arms and equipments. The remainder of this memorable march is described in Rte. 73. The picturesque attractions of this route are of a high order, as the view which it commands is of great extent and magnificence. This view is rather improved by being seen from an eminence to the E., reached in 10 m. from the Col.

"The descent into the *Schächen Thal* is long and steep, but the path is well traced, and the pole on the *Kinzig Kulm*, being seen for a long time, would help to guide the ascending pedestrian on this side, though it is useless for that purpose on the other. The path lies throughout down the pastures on the right bank of the stream, but generally at a considerable distance from it. The *Schächen Thal* is reached at a point a little below Spiringen, after a descent of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. From thence to Bürglen it is a walk of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour, and another  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour brings the traveller to *Altorf*."—R.E.

8 or 9 hrs. walk from Muotta to Altorf.

## ROUTE 76.

STACHELBERG TO ALTORF, BY THE  
KLAUSEN PASS.

	h. m.
Stachelberg.	
Summit . . . . .	4 15
Unterschächen . . . . .	2 0
Spiringen . . . . .	1 0
Altorf . . . . .	1 15
	<hr/> 8 30

Charge for a horse from Stachelberg to the summit, 12 fr.; to Altorf, 24 fr. and a trinkgeld. The path is so well marked that guides may be dispensed with; it is practicable for horses. It turns out of the valley of the Linth to the W. at Aue, about a mile above the baths, and ascends the valley of the Fätsch, or Urner Boden, keeping along its l. bank; a very stiff pull of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours. Within a mile above the junction of the Fätsch and Linth, the valley belongs to canton Uri. It abounds in fine mountain pastures, and many of the inhabitants of the Schächen-thal pass their summer here among the cows. Urner Boden (there is an humble *Inn*  $3\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. from Stachelberg) is a scattered hamlet of 80 houses, with a church, extending the whole length of the valley. The culminating point, or Klausen pass, is a ridge of 6150 ft. high, connecting the snowy chain of the Clariden Alps on the S. with the shattered Zingel, Glatten, and Camli. From an eminence a little N. of the summit a very fine view is obtained of the opposite range of the Scheerhorn and Windgelle. On the top of the pass stands a little chapel. A little further on the path divides, leading l. by a rapid descent, or straight on along the higher level

until it falls in with that from the Kinzig Kulm, and descends upon Spiringen. This, though the longest, is said to be less fatiguing: it is probably also the less beautiful track.

The other and more frequented path descends by long and steep zigzags, by the rocks of the Balmwand, into the *Schächen-thal*; on the l. hand is seen the very pretty cascade of the *Stäubi*. Opposite the chapel of St. Anne a bergfall occurred in 1833, which arrested for some time the course of the Schächen, and produced a small lake. At the village of

*Unter Schächen*, the first on the Uri side (a small *Inn*, Rose, homely but tolerable), another branch of the valley opens S., and sends forth the main stream of the Schächen. An excursion may be made from here to the glacier which descends from the Gross Ruchen, wrongly called Rüchi on most maps. The Spitze, the mountain on the l. bank of the torrent, discharges dangerous avalanches in spring. At

*Spiringen*, and a little lower down, near the chapel of St. Anthony, there are inns, tolerably good for this country.

*Bürglen*, the birthplace of Tell, stands at the mouth of the Schächen-thal. (Rte. 34.)

*Altorf* (Rte. 34).

The scenery on this route is very interesting. No single point is equal to the view from the Klön See on the Prigel route (Rte. 73); but on the W. side the Schächen Thal is much finer than the Muotta Thal.

## ROUTE 77.

### STACHELBERG TO DISENTIS, BY THE SAND GRAT.

This pass should be undertaken only in settled weather, and by practised pedestrians. A good guide is indispensable. (Gabriel Zweifel, at Lint Thal, and Jean Baptiste Monn, at Disentis, have been recommended; the latter is said to be well acquainted with the glaciers surrounding the Tödi.) Starting from Stachelberg, it is a very long day's work to reach Disentis—about 14 hrs.; and most travellers will find it advisable to sleep either at the upper or lower Sand Alp. The lower châteaux probably afford better accommodation, but they are 2 hrs.' walk nearer to Stachelberg. The ascent from Disentis being shorter than from Stachelberg, the pass may be made from that side in about 13 hrs.

The route from Stachelberg to the upper Sand Alp, 5½ hrs.' walk, has been described in Rte. 74. Beyond that point the track keeps near to the stream, and in about ¼ hr. commences to ascend the *Sand glacier* in a S.W. direction, towards the *Katscharauls*, between which peak and that of the *Kleiner Tödi* lies the pass. The glacier, with proper precautions, offers neither difficulty nor danger; and in about 4 hrs.,

[Scitz.]

or less if the snow be in good order, the summit of the *Sand Grat* is attained, 9272 ft. above the sea. The view of the surrounding Alps is extremely fine. The *Tödi* (11,883 ft.) is the most prominent object. It is here seen that, contrary to the common opinion, the highest summit of the Tödi does not lie in the range which forms the watershed between Glarus and the Grisons, but in a huge buttress projecting on its N. side. The peak which does lie in the main range, and which is taken for the Tödi when seen from the valley of the Vorder Rhein, is the *Piz Rosein*, a lower companion of the Tödi proper.

A steep but not very difficult descent, partly over loose stones, leads in about 1½ hr. (2 hrs. ascending) to the Disentis Alp, where there are 2 or 3 châteaux, occupied only in the height of summer. From the S. side of this pasture the descent lies through the beautiful glen of the *Val Rosein*, chiefly amongst pine-trees, overhung by rugged rocks. In 3 hrs. from the summit the path emerges on the road from Ilanz to Disentis, close to a wooden bridge across the stream from the Val Rosein.

About 2 m. distant by the high-road is *Disentis*. Inns: Krone (or Post), comfortable, civil landlord; Adler (or Rathhaus). (See Rte. 82.)

## ROUTE 78.

STACHELBERG TO BRIGELS, OVER THE  
KISTENGRAT.

"After crossing the Pantenbrücke (Rte. 74), which is nearly 2 hrs.' good walking from the baths of Stachelberg, the path over the Kistengrat turns rather sharply to the l., and ascends through pleasant woods and green pasturages for a time. 2½ hrs. from the Pantenbrücke, always rising, brings you to the summit of the little secluded nook in which the chalet of the *Limern Alp*, the highest belonging to the Lint-thal, is built. It consists of 3 miserable hovels of loose stones, one a piece for the cows, the goats, and the men. This is separated from the black precipitous face of the Selbsanft Mountain by a deep chasm, the bottom of which can scarcely be seen from the edge. Here a man and 2 boys, with 3 or 4 cows and some goats, pass 3 months of the year in seclusion, taking with them their supply of flour and bread. After quitting the Limern Alp, there was no semblance of a path, and the snow, which in the middle of the day before had been declared by the guide and peasantry to be quite impassable from its softness, had become early in the morning so hard and icy as to be nearly impassable in the steeper parts from its slipperiness; so great is the difference made by a few hours. It took us quite 5½ hrs. to go from the chalet on the Limern Alp to the village of Brigels, and of these 3½ were on the snow. We passed close by the Mütten See, leaving it on our left. It was then a mass of snow and ice, no water being visible. In a different state of the snow a path is sometimes taken across a lower part of the mountain, leaving the Mütten See on the right, but it was too steep

and slippery for us to attempt. We crossed a higher part of the mountain by aid of the solitary foot-tracks of some shepherd (made when the snow was softer, as the guide said, in search of some lost sheep), and which we luckily discovered just at the steepest part, where a slip would have carried one down over a precipice of unknown depth. The views of the distant Alps from the summit are very fine, and the descent into the valley of the Vorder Rhine, near Brigels, affords one continuous view of that valley from above Disentis, almost to its junction with the valley of the Hinter Rhine, and is also very fine; but the expedition was hardly worth the trouble and danger, although it enabled me to see the upper part of the Lint-Thal and the Pantenbrücke, and the greater part of the valley of the Vorder Rhine, without returning on my footsteps. Much depends on the season, the weather, and the state of the snow; but it is at least 9 hrs. from the baths of Stachelberg to Brigels, and one should start at ½ past 4, or at latest 5, o'clock in the morning. The *Inn* at Brigels is poor. The village itself was nearly destroyed by fire a few years since, and many of the houses are new. The chalet on the Limern Alp is a little out of the way, and it would save time to carry refreshment and avoid it."

## ROUTE 79.

## GLARUS OR STACHELBERG TO REICHENAU—RICHETLI AND SEGNES PASSES.

As mentioned in Rte. 74, there are two passes by which communication is kept up between Glarus and the valley of the Vorder Rhein in the Grisons. They are both most easily approached by the char-road which has been carried for 5 leagues up the Sernft Thal as far as Elm. Pedestrians approaching from Stachelberg will prefer the Richetli pass, which leads in 7 hrs. from the Baths to Elm.

About 3 m. above Glarus the valley of the Linth divides into two branches. Out of the l. or E. branch issues the Sernft: it is sometimes called Kleintal, to distinguish it from the larger W. branch, or Lint-thal.

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  way to Enghi (*Inn*), rt. there is rather a fine waterfall;  $\frac{1}{4}$  h. beyond this an isolated view of the Glärnisch, very noble. This mountain, owing to its form and position, is one of the most striking in Switzerland, seen from whatever side.

Matt, another village, stands on the rt. bank of the Sernft, and at the mouth of the minor vale of the Krauchthal, up which runs a path to Sargans, over the Risetten pass, 7 stunden.

The quarries in the Plattenberg, a mountain of the grauwacke and clay-slate, on the l. side of the valley, opposite Matt, furnish excellent slates for roofing or for writing. Most of the schools in Switzerland are supplied from hence: and the slate was formerly exported down the Rhine to Holland and the Indies. This slate is well known to geologists for the beautiful and perfect casts of fossil fish in which it abounds. The lower portion of the valley is unhealthy, as may be learned from the occurrence of goitre and crétinism (those afflicted with the latter are here called Tölpel

—dolt, blockhead—§ 18); but the inhabitants of the upper extremity are a fine and hardy race.

*Elm.* (*Inns*: a new inn, built in 1857, and kept by Jacob Elmer, is comfortable, and the landlord attentive; another inn, formerly well recommended, by the widow Freuler, appears to have been given up.)

The route from Stachelberg to Elm crosses the Linth and ascends a steep path on the rt. bank of the *Durna Thal*. At the head of that valley the track, which is faintly marked, bears away to the l., or nearly due E., and reaches the summit of the *Richetli Pass* in about 4 hrs. from the Baths. The descent on the E. side towards Elm is easy, and the track pretty well marked, so that no guide is needed.

[From Elm there is a pass over the *Ramin Grat* to Sargans or Pfeffers. The ascent is made in 4 hrs. by a very rough path, impassable for horses. The view from the summit is said to be very fine. The descent into the *Weisstannen Thal* is not easy to find without a guide. To reach Sargans that valley is followed from its head to its lower extremity at *Mels* near Sargans. In order to reach Pfeffers it is necessary to turn to the S.E. after passing the first chalet in the *Weisstannen Thal*, and to cross two ridges into the *Kalfeuser Thal*, or valley of the *Tamina*, which may be followed to Pfeffers. This is a long day's walk of fully 12 hrs., and a guide is indispensable. At *Vättis*, in the *Kalfeuser Thal*, there is a poor *Inn*.]

The *Segnes Pass* from Elm to Flims requires about 7 hrs. fair walking. Heinrich Elmer is well spoken of as a guide. The path crosses the Sernft just above the village, and follows the S.E. branch of that stream, fed by the snows of the *Ofen*, until it reaches the point where the stream coming from the *Segnes* joins the former. The path turns to the l., and, after following the second stream for a short distance,

begins to mount nearly due E. over pastures, and then over loose stones, where all trace of path is lost, until it approaches very near to a singular hole, or natural tunnel through the mountain, which is called the *Martinsloch*, and through which on four days in the year—March 4 and 5, and September 14 and 15—the sun shines upon the village ch. of Elm. This orifice is nearly directly under the peak of the *Segnes Spitz*, which is 800 or 900 ft. above it. To the E. several depressions are seen, over which a way might probably be found into the *Kalfeser Thal*, but the *Segnes Pass* (8612 Eng. ft.) is that nearest to the *Martinsloch*. On the S. side of the pass some steep rocks and slopes of snow lead down to the *Flimser Firn*, a small nearly level glacier occupying a hollow in the mountain, and resembling a frozen lake. This is crossed in a S.E. direction, and the rocks are again reached on the E. side of a stream that issues from the glacier. Keeping at first to the l. of a tract of wet boggy ground, the track then descends over pastures to *Flims*, where there is a rough inn. Better quarters are found by pushing on about 6 m. by the char-road to *Reichenau* (*Inn: Adler*). (Rte. 82.)

## ROUTE 80.

## GLARUS TO ILANZ, BY THE PANIXER PASS.

To approach this pass from Glarus the char-road to Elm is followed (see Rte. 79). In going from *Stachelberg* by the *Richetli* pass, Elm is avoided, as the path to the *Panixer* is met soon after descending the *Richetli*, near to the *châlets* of *Wicheln*, about 4 m. from Elm. But it would be a hard day's work to accomplish both passes, and no accommodation would be found before reaching the village of *Panix*, fully 10 hrs. good walking from the *Baths*. From Elm to *Ilanz* is a walk of 8 hrs.

An hour and a quarter's walk from Elm brings the traveller almost to the head of the W. branch of the *Sernft Thal*, and in front of the opening to the S., which leads to the *Panixer* pass. The ascent of the pass occupies  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours, and for the last two hours the track is marked by poles. The scenery is wild and desolate; the ground rises in stages, or, as it were, in gigantic steps, forming open flats borne up by great precipices. The first of these flats, gained in  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an hour from the *Sernft Thal*, is the wild *Jäzer Alp*. Here are found the last *châlets*.

The summit of the pass (7906 ft.) commands a very comprehensive view over the southern mountains of the *Grisons*, but is not remarkable, except for extent.

The commencement of the descent into the *Grisons* is marked by poles, and turns towards the W. in the direction of a large glacier fed by the snow-fields of the *Hausstock*. The traveller is then left at the edge of a steep declivity to find his own way down. Here it is necessary to turn to the S., and descend the declivity, loose, wet, and it may be said trackless, in order to gain the path which may be perceived on an *Alp* or mountain-pasturage beneath. Before reaching this *Alp*, the stream, just sprung in a considerable volume from



its glacier, must be waded through. The way then lies for a time over the half-barren surface of the Alp, which is raised on immense precipices above the lower valley of Panix. The path then recrosses the stream (which runs in a deep chasm, hardly a yard in width, intersecting the alp), and then ascends for some distance along the face of the precipices on the E., passing in one place along a shelf cut out of the rock. There is no danger whatever here in summer; but after a fall of snow the passage might not be unattended with peril.

The path now opens upon a wide green pasturage, partially sloping down towards the S., and turning by degrees, first E. and then N.E., so as to double round the head of the ravine. The rest of the way to the village of *Panix*, where there is a small country *Inn*, presents no great difficulty, though some little embarrassment may be experienced in the woods. Panix is a long 2 hours distant from the pass to which it gives name. From here it is well worth while to look back upon the pass. All approach seems so barred by precipices that its accessibility would be considered almost impossible.

Below Panix there is a good path, running at a great elevation above the stream along the mountain-side, and eventually emerging upon the heights overlooking the valley of the Vorder Rhein, which sweeps along far below. The views of this valley, seen on the descent, are of extraordinary beauty. The path leads for a long time through pleasant fields and woodland scenes, but at length descends more rapidly upon Ruvis, immediately below which village it falls into the high road which conducts to Ilanz. From Panix to Ilanz (Rte. 82) is a walk of 2 hours.

Suwarrow, after the almost incredible march detailed in Rtes. 73, 75, remained like a stag at bay for three or four days at Glarus for the purpose of resting his wearied troops, though not a day was passed without skirmishes more or less severe with the enemy. At length, finding it

hopeless to attack a French force now so greatly superior in numbers to his own, he adopted the only remaining alternative, of again leading his exhausted and diminished followers over the high crest of the Alps, in order to rescue them from annihilation, and enable him to unite himself with the scattered fragments of the Russian army in the Grisons. He broke up from his quarters on the 5th of October. The lateness of the season, the difficulties of the passage, and the vastly superior force pressing on the heels of his dispirited soldiers, rendered this a far more hazardous enterprise than that which he had previously accomplished. The miserable path up the valley would barely admit two men abreast: along this the army painfully wound its way in single file. The difficulty of the ascent was greatly increased by a fall of snow 2 feet deep; but, as though the hardships of the way were not enough, the indefatigable French, ascending the opposite bank of the Sernft, allowed the Russians no respite from their harassing assaults. Numbers lay down, exhausted from fatigue, to perish on the snow; many, slipping down the insecure fragments of slate, and along the rocks, polished by the frost, were hurled over the precipices, and crushed in the abyss below, while the enemy's bullets were not slow in further thinning their ranks. After five days of toil, and four nights of little repose, since they were spent on the bare surface of the snow and the glaciers, where many men were frozen to death, Suwarrow crossed the ridge of Panix, between 7000 and 8000 ft. above the sea, and on the 10th of October gained the valley of the Rhine at Ilanz. Even on reaching the descent into the Grisons, many perished in attempting to cross the fearful chasm of the Araschka Alp. For months the foul birds and beasts of prey were gorged with their bodies, and the bones of many a warrior are still blanching in the crevices and ravines of the Jätzer. Thus terminated a march of 18 days' duration, perhaps the most extraordinary ever

performed by an army, incessantly engaged, fighting a battle almost every day, and obliged to traverse a country unknown, and completely destitute of resources. This remarkable retreat was accomplished with the loss of all his artillery, the greater part of the beasts of burden, and one-third of his men.

## ROUTE 82.

COIRE, UP THE VALLEY OF THE VORDER RHEIN, TO DISENTIS, AND ACROSS THE OBERALP TO ANDERMATT.

	Stunden.	Eng. m.
Reichenau . . . . .	2	= 6
Ilanz . . . . .	4½	= 14
Truns . . . . .	4	= 12
Disentis . . . . .	2½	= 7½
Andermatt . . . . .		

Carriage-road to Andermatt completed 1866; hilly, and not very good. Diligence daily in 10 hrs. to Disentis; 13 hrs. to Andermatt. The ascent of the Oberalp on the Grison side is rather rough: thence to Andermatt in good order. Best *Inns*, Ilanz and Disentis.

It is scarcely possible to walk from Reichenau to Andermatt in less than 2 days. As far as Disentis the scenery is varied and most picturesque; in parts very fine, not unlike Deeside in Scotland. Thence to Andermatt is chiefly over open Alpine pasturages. The number of small

castles on heights above the Rhine is remarkable; it is as much the castellated Rhine here as below Mayence.

The great post-road from Coire (Rte. 87), up the valley of the Rhine, is followed as far as

6 m. *Reichenau—Inn*: Adler (Rte. 87)—where the waters of the Vorder and Hinter Rhein unite.

The new road strikes up the side of the hills on the l. bank of the Rhine, to the village of Tamins, directly over Reichenau. Hence the traveller enjoys a beautiful view up both valleys of the Rhine. The entrance of that of Hinter-Rhein, up which runs the road to the Splügen, is guarded by the castle of Ræzüns, backed by villages and church-towers without number. Beyond Trins our road turns aside from the Rhine, and bends round a little monticule rising by a considerable and steep ascent into a small sequestered upland basin, in the midst of which lies

7 m. *Flims* (Rom. Flem.)—Adler, *Poste*, rough—a village 3360 ft. above the sea, named from the number of sources around it, *ad flumina*. [Here the path to Glarus, by the Segnes pass (Rte. 79), strikes off to Waldhauser, a rustic inn, in ¾ m.] After continuing some time out of sight of the Rhine, we join it again after a steep descent, about 3 miles beyond Lax. Pedestrians should inquire for a foot-path which cuts off the greater part of the détour involved by passing through Flims.

7 m. *Ilanz* (in Romansch, Glion, or Ilon).—(*Inns*: Oberalp, on rt. bank, best; Post, or Zum Lukmanier;—both above the average.) Ilanz is the only place in the valley deserving the name of town, and is the capital of the Graue Bund, or Grey League. Its 668 Inhab. speak Romansch, and this dialect prevails in a large portion of the valley. This place is magnificently situated astride the Rhine, here crossed by a wooden bridge. The environs abound in charming walks and splendid views; ruins of

Grüneck, Kästris, &c. Many fine old houses, in a state of dilapidation, prove it was once the abode of noble families. There is a grand panoramic view from the *Piz Mundaun*, S.W. of the town, 6929 ft.

[The Pass of the Valserberg to Splügen is described Rte. 89. The Panixer pass to Glarus is described Rte. 80.]

From Ilanz to Tüsis is a day's walk of 10 or 11 hrs. by the rt. bank of the Vorder Rhein and the Savien Thal (Rte. 90). Scarcely any route could repay the traveller better than this; but the path is not always good. There is also a pass to Olivone, in the Val Blegno (Rte. 86).]

At Ruis, 2½ m. beyond Ilanz, the Panixer pass diverges, the scene of Suwarrow's retreat (Rte. 81).

5 m. Rhine is crossed to Tavanasa, and

4 m. is recrossed thence.

1 m. *Trüns* (Rom., Tron)—(*Inn*: Krone, "not well reputed")—a village in a singularly beautiful situation, at a little distance from the Rhine. Its 800 Inhab. are Rom. Catholics, and speak Romansch. Abandoned iron-works in the vicinity. Trüns is chiefly remarkable, however, as the cradle of liberty among the Rhoetian Alps. Beneath the shade of the neighbouring forest the peasants met at the beginning of the 15th century, to concert plans for liberating themselves and their children from the oppression and slavery of their feudal lords, three or four of whose castles, now in ruins, may still be seen frowning down from the neighbouring crags.

Near the entrance of the village, on the side of Ilanz, stands the decayed but venerated fragment of a *Sycamore* (*Acer Pseudoplatanus*; German, Ahorn), now 6 or 7 centuries old, a mere trunk, cloven and hollow, beneath whose once-spreading branches the deputies of the peasants met the nobles who were favourable to their cause, in March, 1424, and took the oath of fidelity to one another, and to their free constitution then esta-

blished. According to tradition this remarkable oath was administered by the Abbot of Disentis. The confederates swore "to be and to continue good and true friends; to hold together in war and in peace; to maintain each man his own rights by law, and not by the strong hand; to withstand all lawless violence; and to punish the unruly who will not obey the sentence of the law." Such is the origin of the GREY LEAGUE, *Graue Bund* (Rte. 66), so called from the grey beards or the grey homespun garb of the venerable assembly. A vigorous young shoot has sprouted forth from the hollow trunk, and is protected by a railing. Close to the sycamore tree stands the little *Chapel of St. Anne*, whose portico is adorned with Bible texts, "In libertatem vocati estis;" "Ubi Spiritus Domini, ibi Libertas;" "In te speraverunt Patres;" &c., and with two fresco paintings. One represents the first formation of the League, the principal figures being the Abbot of Disentis, in the robes of his order; the Count of Sax, with a white flowing beard; and the lord of Rhoetzuns. The other picture shows the renewal of the oath in 1778: the deputies here appear with starched frills, and hair powdered and frizzled; in silk stockings and walking-sticks. It is recorded that the deputies on the former occasion brought their dinners in sacks on their backs, which they hung up by nails to the rocks, while they quenched their thirst in the brook which traverses the meadow of Tavanasa. The more courtier-like deputies of the second meeting were more sumptuously feasted in the mansion of the Abbot. In the so-called *Ritter-saal*, a building belonging to the Abbey of Disentis, the arms of all the magistrates since 1424 are painted on the walls.

The inhabitants of the upper part of the valley, about Disentis, are Roman Catholics, as will become apparent from the increased number of churches and crosses. The mountains which bound it change from limestone to primitive rocks, and give a different character to its scenery.

Opposite *Somvix* (Rom. *Sumvig*; Lat. *Summus-vicus*), abounding in cherry-trees, the valley of that name opens out; through it is a path to Olivone by the Greina pass. A wooden bridge, 160 ft. high, 210 ft. long, carries the road over the Rusein-Tobel.

7½ *Disentis* (*Inns*: H. Condrau, very good, best situation; Krone; Adler, same landlord as H. Condrau; H. Berther). 5½ frs. board and lodging a-day. Game plentiful. The *Benedictine Abbey* of Disentis (Rom. *Mustär*; Lat. *Monasterium*) is one of the oldest ecclesiastical establishments in Switzerland, founded, it is said, by the Scotch monk Siegbert, a companion of St. Gall, and was the nucleus of early civilization in this wild and remote country. It stands on an elevated terrace, 3700 ft. above the sea-level, with a small village clustered round its base, and near the head of a rather long ascent. It is protected by a forest above it from falling avalanches, on the l. bank of the Vorder-Rhine, at the junction of the two Alpine torrents which unite in forming that river. The Abbey has twice been burned down in modern times, first in 1799, when the French invaders burnt it, and along with it the library formed in the 7th and 8th centuries. The abbey, again burnt in 1846, but rebuilt, and now used as a school for the Canton, has an imposing appearance, from its size and position, towering above the humble hovels of the village below, as its rich and powerful abbots, in the middle ages, lorded it over their vassals. They were, at one time, firm allies of the House of Habsburg, and the abbot and his banner occupied the van at the battle of Morgarten. At a later period, however, 1424, Abbot Peter of Pontaningen was one of the founders of Grison liberty, who met under the sycamore at Trübs.

A newspaper is published here in the Romansch dialect.

There is a path hence up the Medelser Thal to Santa Maria, and

thence over the Lukmanier to Bellinzona (Rte. 85); a 2nd, over the Uomo Pass and down the Val Piora to Airolo, 10½ hrs. (Rte. 84); a 3rd, difficult and dangerous, runs N. over the Dödi-Grat, by the Sandalp, to the Baths of Stachelberg (Rte. 77); a 4th, by the Kreutzli Pass and Maderaner Thal (Rte. 83) to Amsteg, 10 hours' good walking.

Jean Baptiste Monn is recommended as a guide.

A *Railway* through the ridge of the Lukmanier has been surveyed.

Disentis is a convenient station for travellers bent on exploring these and other passes. The charge is rather high for very poor cattle, viz. 11 frs. a-day for each horse, with a bonnemain of 1 fr. a-day to each of the guides. But in summer time the horses are sent up to the High Alps to carry hay, &c., and require to be fetched a long distance. If required for several days a less price will be taken.

The new road from Disentis up to the Oberalp leaves the Medélser Thal on the l., and ascends the vale of Tavétsch by the l. bank of the Vorder-Rhine, now reduced in breadth and volume to a mountain-torrent.

5 *Sedrün*, or Tavétsch (*Inn*: Krone, good), the chief place in the valley.

2 *Ruaras* (Rom. *St. Giacomo*) (*Inn*, Oberalp). On a hill nearly surrounded by the Rhine stand the ruins of the *Castle of Pultmenga* or *Pontaningen*.

Above Ruaras a narrow gorge leads out of the lower into an upper valley. This part of it is dreadfully exposed to avalanches. In 1808 one fell from the Ruenatsch upon the village of Selva, and killed 42 human beings and 237 head of cattle.

The carriage-road is carried through Tschiamot.

*Tschiamot* the last village in the Tavétsch deserving that name, and provided with a church; it is 5000 ft. above the sea. The valley of Tavétsch is the cradle of the Vorder-Rhine: it is supplied from 3 branches, having their source in the vast moun-

tains and glaciers which wall in its upper extremity; the *Crispalt*, on the S. side, the Sexmadan (Cima de Badus), and the Cornäre. At Tschiamot one of the branches is crossed, after which, adieu to the Rhine.

The new carriage-road, adopting a line more safe from avalanches than the old summer path, ascends the Val Surpalix by ten sweeping zigzags, and, crossing the boundary of Canton Uri, attains

*The Summit of the Pass*, 7172 ft. above the sea.

On reaching the opposite declivity, a small lake, famed for its trout, lies at the foot of the traveller. This is the *Oberalp See*, one of the head-waters of the Reuss: it is beset with bogs. This spot was the scene of a hard struggle between the French and Austrians in 1799. The road skirts along the N. side of the lake. The vale of Urseren, with Hospital in the distance, and the house on the Furca, now open out to view, and a long descent by well-drawn zigzags, which may be much abridged by the pedestrian, first through a naked valley of pastures, and then down an arduous and broken declivity, brings the traveller to

*Andermatt* (Christin's Inn, good), on the St. Gothard (Rte. 34). To walk hence to Disentis will require 7 hrs; to drive 3½ hrs.; to the Col about 2½ hrs.

## ROUTE 83.

### AMSTEG TO DISENTIS, BY THE PASS OF THE KREUZLI.

This Pass requires from 10 to 11 hrs., and should not be tried without a guide. Jos. Maria Trösch and Ambrose Zraggen, of Silenen, are good guides.

"The path runs at starting up the *Maderaner Thal*, on the l. bank of the Kerstlenbach, which joins the Reuss at Amsteg. For a few minutes it is by its side: the ascent to gain the level of the fields above the closing gorge then commences, and continues for about ¼ hr. through the forest. The valley behind the gorge is thus entered and followed up; the chapel of St. Antony and little hamlet of Bristen are passed, and a little further on the river is crossed (40 min. from Amsteg), and recrossed 10 min. afterwards. An hr. after leaving Amsteg the stream from the Ezli Thal is crossed. This valley leads to the Kreuzli, and the Maderan Thal is now left. A considerable ascent is necessary to get into the Ezli Thal, as the path has to mount above the head of a high fall. The first bridge over its stream, above the fall, is not crossed, but the three following are. Soon after crossing the third of these bridges (about 2 hrs. from Am-

steg), the last trees are passed, and the path mounts continually for nearly another couple of hours along the W. flank of a naked desolate ravine. It skirts on its way, in the bed of the stream, the remains of an immense avalanche which fell 1849—a mass of snow, dirt, and fallen rocks, probably  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile long. Beside it stands a cross with the date 1834. A small marshy basin succeeds the ravine, the valley here changing its direction from S. to W. At this basin the way to the Kreuzli quits the valley, passing the river and ascending the eastern mountains. There is a bridge; the track is not perceptible in the neighbourhood of the river, though it soon reappears during the subsequent ascent.

“It is well worth while to follow up the valley for half a mile or a mile above the basin just mentioned, instead of immediately leaving it for the pass. The river is pursued towards the W., till it is lost in a short defile beneath the snow, with which the bed of the narrow passage is choked up. A multitude of gigantic blocks, heaped one above another, form one side of this cleft in the mountains. The snow affords good walking, and the defile soon gives admittance into a large hollow of the highest savage character. It is utterly sterile and uninhabited; a mere receptacle for fallen rocks and snow. The glaciers of the Crispalt sweep down upon it; craggy mountains of the boldest elevation girdle it in; their splintered summits rise on all sides high into the sky. To visit this spot in the journey over the Kreuzli would not increase the duration of the day's walk by much more than half an hour.

“The track which leads to the Kreuzli pass, after the marshy basin is left and the river crossed, continues to ascend towards the E. up an uneven slope, until it reaches the opening of a kind of high, short valley, by pursuing which the summit is to be gained. From this point there is an unexpected view of the bay of Uri, and of the plain at the entrance of the Reuss into the lake. The last ascent to the

Kreuzli is gentle but rough, the ground being covered with loose blocks, alternating with patches of snow. The track only appears at intervals, generally upon the snow; but the course of the little valley is in itself a sufficient guide. The crest of the pass, marked by a pole, is reached in 5 hrs. direct from Amsteg, or 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  allowing halts to enjoy the view, and has an elevation of 7710 feet above the sea.

“The views from the Kreuzli are on both sides of an extremely savage nature, amongst the neighbouring mountains and glaciers. There is also an extensive view, looking down the valley, of the snowy mountains between the Grisons and the canton Ticino.

“It is a bad descent into the valley of Strim down a steep declivity, broken by numbers of jutting crags. Occasional goat-tracks supply the place of a regular path. Neither is the track down the valley—when its bed is attained, and the ice-cold river, just sprung from its glaciers, crossed—anything like a good path. It requires two long and rather fatiguing hours from the summit of the pass to reach the village of Sedrun or Tavetsch in the valley of the Fore Rhine. The valley of Strim is uninhabited, and its nakedness is not relieved by a single tree, not even a stunted fir. From Sedrun to Disentis down the valley of the Fore Rhine is an easy walk of 2 hrs. (See Rte. 82.)



## ROUTE 84.

DISENTIS TO AIROLO, BY THE UOMO PASS. (11 hrs.).

"As far as the hospice of Santa Maria, 5 leagues from Disentis, the way to this pass is the same as that to the Lukmanier. (Rte. 85.) A little tributary valley of the Medelser Thal opens from the S.W. into the plain of Santa Maria, and leads to the Uomo pass. The path ascends from the plain on the rt. bank of the stream which waters this valley. There is no difficulty on the ascent, which is rapid and continuous. The valley is narrow and barren, and presents nothing remarkable. The summit of the pass is reached easily in an hour and a half from Santa Maria. Its height is 7160 ft.; the ground is flat and boggy, and not adapted for a path: it is accordingly traced along a gentle slope on the S. edge of the marsh, where there are one or two rude châteaux.

"The descent is scarcely begun before a commanding view of the knot of the St. Gothard Alps opens out in front above the lesser mountains. The pastures, or 'Alp' of Piora, down which the path lies, produce a cheese of considerable repute in the canton. The descent is at first rapid, but then reaches a little plain and lake, and then the lake of *Ritom*. The descent from the lake is abrupt and long, the river forming in quick succession three very fine falls.

"After passing the third fall, the path is fairly out of the Val Piora, and on the flanks of the Val Leventina, having been throughout, during the descent from the pass, on the rt. bank of the stream, which it now abandons. The rest of the way to Airolo is very interesting. The Val Leventina and the St. Gothard road are left far beneath, and the path continues high on the

slopes of the mountains, passing through the village of Madrano. Here the opening of the Val Canaria breaks the side of the chain: the path descends, crosses the stream issuing from it, and falls into the St. Gothard road a little below Airolo."—R. E.

## ROUTE 85.

PASS OF THE LUKMANIER — DISENTIS TO OLIVONE IN THE VAL BLEGNO.

10 hrs.

A path, much frequented in summer, and practicable throughout on horseback, though very steep towards its two extremities. It is a long and not very interesting pass, but has acquired importance from the comparative facilities it offers for the construction of a Railway with tunnels through the Alps—so as to connect Switzerland, W. France, and South Germany, with Sardinia, Lombardy, and the cities of Milan, Turin, and Genoa. A succession of long and comparatively level valleys on either side of the pass have caused it to be surveyed for the construction of a *Railway*, and it is practicable by means of a tunnel 15 m. long, which is to enter the mountain at Perdatsch and to emerge at Camps in Val Blegno.

The valley of *Medels*, up which this route lies as far as Sta. Maria, runs in a direction nearly due S. from Disentis, and is traversed through its whole length by the Middle Rhine. The entrance to it is by a rocky and wooded gorge, about 2 m. from Di-

sentis, called Conflons, because the Vorder and Mittel-Rhein unite in it. In the midst of it the Rhine forms two cascades, and beyond it the valley opens out into a wide basin, lined with pastures and forests, in the remoter parts of which the bear is still found, while the chamois abounds on the granite peaks forming the highest summits of the surrounding Alps. The path scales the steep and craggy ridge to the rt. of the gorge, of which it affords but a very imperfect view, and then descends into the valley, opposite Curaglia, a village on the rt. bank of the M. Rhine, placed just above the influx of the torrent which descends from the Medelser Gletscher. A little further up the Rhine is crossed to

*Platta* (accommodation at the Curé's), the principal place in the Medelser Thal. In 1 hr. more, passing through the hamlet St. Rocco, a spot is reached, whence, looking back, the view of the Dödi is superb.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. higher is *Perdätsch*—situated at the opening of the Val Cristallina, which runs in a S.E. direction, and sends forth one branch of the Middle Rhine. It is celebrated for its rock-crystals, out of which the shrine of St. Carlo Borromeo, in the Duomo of Milan, was formed. The ascent here becomes more rapid, and the scenery wilder and finer. Huge rocks are jumbled about. Below *Perdätsch* the Mittel-Rhein plunges, in a fall 100 ft. high, into a deep gulf. The little hospices of St. John and St. Gall, each with its warning bell, are passed, and, in about 5 hrs. from Disentis, Sta. Maria is reached. Here a stream descends from the W. out of the Lake Dim, at the end of the Val Cadelina; and another issues from the foot of the Monte Scuro.

*Sta. Maria* is a hospice kept up for the benefit of travellers, and, though very wretched in appearance, the traveller may procure tolerable accommodation for horse and man.

$\frac{1}{2}$  hr's. walk above Sta. Maria brings you to the culminating point of the Pass of the *Lukmanier* (in Latin, Mons Lucumonium; in Romansch,

Lukmajn, or Culm Sta. Maria), 6340 ft. above the sea.

It is said that the army of Pepin passed this way, A.D. 754, on his invasion of Italy. Poles, stuck into the rocks, mark the direction of the path across the Col. A horse-path over the Uomo Pass (Rte. 84) branches off from the hospice to Airolo, through the Val Termini, or Val Forno, the Val Piora, by Altanca, Brugnasco, and Madrano.

A cross on the summit of the Lukmanier marks the boundary of the Grisons and Canton Tessin. Hence the path to Olivone and the Val Blegno descends the Alpine Val Casaccia, in 1 hr. to

The Hospice of *Casaccia*; and, a few miles lower, to that of

*Camperio*, both founded, it is said, by St. Carlo Borromeo, for the reception of travellers.

The first glimpse of the spires and plain of

*Olivone*, from the wooded steepes of the Lukmanier, is very striking, the descent to it beautiful, and the village itself is one of the most charming spots in the Alps. The small Inn of Stefano Bolla is comfortable, though of no inviting exterior, and rather high-priced. *Diligence* to Biasca.

Olivone is the highest village in the Val Blegno, and stands at the point where the lateral valley of Casaccia joins it; it has about 740 Inhab.

The Val Blegno (Germ. Polenzerthal) is traversed by the stream of the Brenno, which enters it from a narrow cleft in the mountain; and a tolerable char-road, in part carriage-road, has recently been formed along the l. bank of the stream, from Olivone to Biasca, on the route of the St. Gothard (Rte. 34), a distance of 14 m. All the valley on the W. is very beautiful.

Many of the chocolate-sellers and chestnut-roasters, who swarm in the streets of the cities of Italy, come from the Val Blegno.

Biasca, on the St. Gothard road.

## ROUTE 86.

ILANZ TO OLIVONE IN THE VAL BLEGNO,  
BY THE PASSES OF THE DISRUT AND  
GREINA.

This route (14 hrs.) leads S. from Ilanz up the *Lugnetz Thal*, a beautiful valley, contracted at its opening into the valley of the Rhine to a mere defile, as far as *Kumbels* (1½ hr. from Ilanz). A little farther up the valley divides; the E. branch, the *St. Peter's Thal*, leads to the pass of the *Valserberg* (Rte. 89); the W. branch, or *Vrin Thal*, leading to the *Val Blegno*. Near the junction are the Baths of *Peiden*, where tolerably good accommodation may be had. The road to the *Disrut*, after leaving *Kumbels*, passes for a very long time over an elevated and extensive tract of open fields, dotted with several villages and hamlets, and commanding a view up the main valley as far as the pass of the *Valserberg*. At length the narrow upper valley of *Vrin* is entered, and, after crossing a deep ravine, the village of *Vrin*, which gives its name to the valley, is reached (5 hrs. from Ilanz). The curé here will give lodging to travellers.

On leaving *Vrin* the path descends to and crosses the river, which it recrosses almost directly afterwards. The last hamlet is *Buzasch* (1½ hr. from *Vrin*). From *Buzasch* to the summit of the *Disrut* is an ascent of nearly 2 hrs. For the first hour there is a path marked; the rest of the way may be called pathless. By a gap, in which snow lies, is at last attained, not the crest of the *Disrut*, but the

narrow edge of the sharply serrated ridge which divides the hollow leading down to *Buzasch* from another leading down to *Camps*. The edge of this ridge is gained close to the point where it diverges from the chain which separates the valleys of *Somvix* and *Vrin*. The ascent from here to the *Disrut* is difficult but short (about ½ of an hour). Immediately on the left is seen a shallow gully partly filled with snow, the sides of which are composed of small loose fragments of rock. The head of this gully is the pass of the *Disrut*. When the surface of the snow is too hard and steep to be practicable, it is necessary to make one's way as well as possible up the loose rocks and stones, which slip away beneath the feet. The summit of the *Disrut* (7280 ft.) is thus gained, 8½ hrs. after leaving Ilanz. The view of rugged mountains from the point is exceedingly fine.

From this point there is a very bad descent into a plain below (the ascent must be extremely difficult). After a short ½-hr. of what cannot be called walking, but rather scrambling and slipping, down a crumbling declivity and a bed of snow lying in the depths of a rift, the highest part of the great plain is reached. Right above the head, but just at a safe distance, a glacier is seen pushing itself forward to the edge of a precipice, and strewing the ground at its foot, almost close to the passer by, with heaps of fragments of ice.

The ascent to the *Greina* (6520 ft.) is all but nominal. The *Greina* is in fact merely the western edge of this long plain. The descent on the other side into the *Val Kamadra*, the highest part of the *Val Blegno*, is rather difficult. After crossing a wet stony flat, it is requisite to ascend the right hand of the two spurs into which the broken ridge is split, and then to make a very steep descent among stones and blocks of rock into the head of the valley, which is gained in about half an hour after leaving the summit of the *Greina*. The head of the *Val Kamadra* is partially occupied by a great bed of snow, and is overhung on the W. by the vast

Kamadra glacier, a portion of the same field of ice to which the Medelser glacier belongs. Once in the head of the Val Kamadra all the difficulties of the passage are surmounted. The rest of the way to *Olivone* is sufficiently easy, but will occupy full 3 hrs. more. It is advisable to manage to reach *Olivone* by daylight, as there is a ravine between *Ghirone* and *Olivone*, where the path skirts the edge of unguarded precipices, which makes the way rather awkward after night-fall.

The *Greina* may also be passed either from *Somvix* or *Trons* in the *Grisons* by following up the valley of *Somvix*. From *Olivone* downwards there is a carriage-road through the *Val Blegno* (Rte. 85).

*Splügen*, and about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from *Splügen* to *Coire*; 6 hrs. by diligence or posting from *Splügen* to *Chiavenna*. Persons starting by the first steamer from *Friedrichshafen*, and taking the train at *Rorschach*, may now reach *Coire* in time for the 2nd diligence, which runs throughout the summer months, and so reach *Chiavenna* about 12 at night on the 3rd day from *London*.

From *Coire* (Rte. 87) to *Reichenau* there is not much deserving notice in the scenery of the valley of the *Rhine*; but the mountain *Ghland*, on its l. bank, is a conspicuous object; and on the same side of the *Rhine*, the village of *Felsberg*, partly buried by a slip from threatening rocks above it. The road runs along a nearly level bottom as far as

## ROUTE 87.

COIRE TO CHIAVENNA—THE VIA MALA  
—PASS OF THE SPLÜGEN.

$8\frac{1}{2}$  posts = 73 miles.

	Posts.	Eng. m.
Coire.		
Tusis . . . .	2	= 18
Andeer . . . .	1	= 9
Splügen . . . .	$1\frac{1}{2}$	= 11
Campodolcino . .	$2\frac{1}{2}$	= $24\frac{1}{2}$
Chiavenna . . . .	$1\frac{1}{2}$	= 10

In posting to *Chiavenna*, travellers are enabled to take the same post-carriage through the whole distance. The supply of post-horses is sometimes insufficient.

An extra horse must be taken in the ascent from *Tusis* or *Chiavenna* to the summit.

Diligences twice daily in summer by the *Splügen* to *Como* and *Milan*, and over the *Bernardin*; but by the diligence one side or the other will be passed in the night. The road is excellent all the way. It is a drive of about 7 hrs.. posting, from *Coire* to

*Reichenau*—(*Inn*, *Adler* (*Aigle*), formerly a convent, good and moderate; a pleasant garden)—a group of houses situated at the junction of the two *Rhines*, *Vorder* and *Hinter Rhine*, both crossed by covered wooden bridges. The handsome whitewashed *Château*, with garden, a seat of the *Planta* family, at the end of the last cent. was converted into a school by the burgo-master *Tschanner*. In 1793 a young man calling himself *Chabot* arrived here on foot, with a stick in his hand and a bundle on his back. He presented a letter of introduction to *M. Jost*, the head master, in consequence of which he was appointed usher; and for 8 months gave lessons in *French*, *mathematics*, and *history*. This forlorn stranger was no other than *Louis Philippe*, late King of the *French*, then *Duke de Chartres*, who had been forced, by the march of the *French* army, to quit *Bremgarten*, and seek concealment here in the performance of the humble duties of a school-master. His secret was known only to *M. Jost*. His cheerful room is still pointed out, and 2 paintings—scenes from his own life—presented while he was King. The house contains 2 pictures by *Winterhalter*, presented by *Louis Philippe* to *M. Planta*, and

several other memorials of the late Royal Family of France. [The *Kuntels* Pass to Ragatz (Route 66*d*).]

At Reichenau the road is carried first over the united Rhine and then over the Vorder Rhein (Rte. 82) by covered wooden bridges, each of one fine arch. The lower bridge is 237 ft. long and 80 ft. above the river. The more abundant waters of the Hinter Rhein coming from the Bernardin and the foot of Mount Adula are of dirty blue; while those of the Vorder Rhein, rising in the glaciers of the Crispalt and Lukmanier, are observed to be of a whitish grey tint.

The road to the Splügen follows the course of the Hinter-Rhein. On the top of a commanding rock on the l. bank of the Rhine, and approached by a long bridge, rises the Castle of Rhœtzuns (Rhœtia ima): it is still inhabited.

This part of the Rheinthal, called the valley of *Domleschg* (Vallis Tomiliasca), is particularly remarkable for the number of *castles* (21) which crown almost every rock or knoll on either side of the river, mostly in ruins, sometimes standing out boldly from a dark background of forest, at others so identified by decay, by the weather tints, and by the lichen growth, with the apparently inaccessible rocks on which they stand, as barely to be distinguished. Their picturesque donjons and battlements contribute not a little to enhance the charms of the landscape; they serve at the same time as historical monuments to commemorate the revolution by which the power of a tyrannical feudal aristocracy, the lords of these fastnesses, was broken, and their strongholds burnt by the peasants of this valley, whom they had long oppressed.

Another peculiarity of this district is the intricate intermixture of language and religion. There are scarcely two adjoining parishes, or even hamlets, speaking the same tongue and professing the same faith. Thus at Coire German is the prevailing language, and Protestant the religion of

the majority; at Ems, the first village on the road, Romansch (Rte. 66) is spoken. Tamins and Reichenau are Catholic and German; Bonaduz, divided from them by the Rhine, is Catholic, and speaks Romansch. Rhœtzuns and Kätzis are two Roman Catholic villages; but in the first the language is German, in the second Romansch. The inhabitants of Heizenberg and Tuis, are Protestant and German; of Zillis and throughout the valley of Schams, Protestant and Romansch. Splügen and Hinter Rhein form the boundary at once of the Romansch language and Protestant religion.

The castle of *Ortenstein*, on the rt. bank of the Rhine, is one of the finest and best preserved in the valley: it is still inhabited by the Travers family.

Near the village of *Kätzis* a beautiful view opens out, on the opposite side of the Rhine, up the valley of Oberhalbstein.

The Rhine valley hereabouts exhibits dismal traces of the ravages produced by the torrent *Nolla*, which, rising at the base of the Piz Beveren, on the W. of our route, joins the Rhine nearly at right angles to the direction of the course of that river. It at all times pollutes the waters of the Rhine with its mud, and is subject to very sudden swells after rain, when it rushes down, tearing up the rocks and carrying along with it heaps of stone, mud, and gravel, which not only overspread its own banks, but frequently block up the bed of the Rhine and cause desolating inundations. Thus a district, previously fertile and beautiful, has been transformed since 1807 into a desert, and its fields either buried under stony rubbish or converted into marsh. The evil has been annually increasing for several years past, but hopes are entertained of arresting it and recovering the land. With this view, extensive dykes are being constructed along the banks of the Rhine.

*Tuis* (Inns: \*H. de la Via Mala, very good;—Aigle d'Or. Poste, good)—a

village of 670 Inhab., finely situated on a terrace at the mouth of the Via Mala gorge. Tuis, according to some, is only the word *Tuscia*, the country of the Tuscans, who first colonized these valleys, changed in the Romansch dialect. Tuis was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1845, and is now a street of new houses.

Immediately beyond Tuis the muddy stream of the Nolla, flowing through a waste of debris, is crossed by a handsome bridge. On the rt., at the end of the valley, appears the peak of the Piz Beveren.

[Opposite Tuis the Albula enters the Rhine from the S.E., through the *Schyn Pass*, strongly resembling the Via Mala. Passing Sils, a road follows either bank of the stream; the l. is the hottest, the rt. is the finest. By the latter, 2½ hr. Untermutlen, ½ hr. Solis. Thence over the Solisbrücke, some 1500 ft. above the Albula river, to ¾ hr. Obervatz (whence a rough char-road to Chur); or 1 hr. to Tiefenkasten, on the carriage-road between Coire and the Engadine (Rte. 92-93).]

Above Tuis the valley of the Rhine seems closed up by the mountains; it is only on a nearer approach that the eye discovers the opening of that singular chasm which has cleft them through, affording a passage for the river, and in modern times, by artificial means, for the road. The l. or E. side of this colossal portal is guarded by the castle of *Realt* (Rhætia Alta), standing in the fork between the Albula and the Rhine, and from its lofty platform, 400 ft. high, looking down upon both valleys. It is accessible only from the E., and by crossing the Rhine; on all other sides the rock is a precipice. These mouldering ruins are traditionally reported to owe their origin to Rhætus, chief of the Etruscans, who, driven out of Italy by an invasion of the Gauls, established his stronghold on this spot B.C. 287, and transplanted into the Alps the people and language of Etruria. The ruined chapel of St. John, on a neighbouring height, is stated to have been the earliest, and for a long

time the only Christian temple in the valley, where heathenism prevailed to a comparatively late period.

It is not above ½ m. from Tuis to the Via Mala, and, as the ascent begins immediately, the traveller should at once set off and traverse the Via Mala on foot; the carriage will scarcely overtake him before he has traversed the finest part of the defile, which cannot be fully seen from a carriage.

The VIA MALA, which commences about ½ m. above Tuis, and extends for a distance of more than 3 miles, is one of the most sublime and tremendous defiles in Switzerland. It is difficult to give with any precision the dimensions of this gorge, which has cleft the mountains through the chine. The precipices, which often rise perpendicularly on both sides of it, sometimes even overhanging their base, are certainly in some places 1600 ft. high, and in many places not more than 10 yards apart. The Rhine, compressed within this narrow stony bed, to the width of a pigmy rivulet, is barely audible as it rushes through the depths below the road.

The rocks of slate and limestone, composing the walls of the ravine, are so hard that they appear to have suffered no disintegration from the weather; the fracture is so fresh and sharp that, were the convulsive force from below, which divided them, again called forth to unite them, it seems as though the gulf would close, and leave no aperture behind.

When the traveller enters the mouth of the defile, the sudden transition from the glare of sunshine to the gloom of a chasm, so narrow that it leaves in some places but a strip of sky visible overhead, is exceedingly striking. The walls of rock, at intervals on both sides, afforded in their natural state not an inch of space along which a goat's foot could clamber; and, in ancient times, this part of the pass was deemed quite inaccessible. The peasants gave it the name of the Lost Gulf (*Trou perdu*, *Verlorenes Loch*); and, when they wanted to go from Tuis to the higher valley of Schams,



they ascended the vale of the Nolla for some distance, clambering over the tops of high mountains, round the shoulder of the Piz Beveren, and descended on the opposite side at Suvera. A second road, formed in 1470, crossed the mountains as before, but dipped down, from the village of Rongella, into the depths of the Via Mala, near the first bridge; still avoiding altogether the Trou perdu. This inconvenient path, after being used for more than 300 years, was superseded by the present magnificent highway constructed by the engineer Pocobelli. Avoiding the useless détour, and the fatiguing ascent and descent, he at once plunged into the defile, and pierced the projecting buttress of rock, which had previously denied all access to it, by the gallery or tunnel of the Verlohrenes Loch, 216 ft. long, through which the road now passes. The view, looking back from this, through the dark vista of black rock, and the fringe of firs, upon the ruined tower of Realt and the sun-lit valley of Domleschg, is very pleasing. The grooves of the boring-rod, by which the very hard slate rock is everywhere streaked, indicate how arduous was the labour of constructing this part of the road. It was literally forcing a passage through the bowels of the earth; and the whole width of the carriage-way has been gained by blasting a notch, as it were, in the side of the mountain. For more than 1000 ft. it is carried along beneath a stone canopy, thus artificially hollowed out. The road is protected by a parapet wall, below which, at a depth of many hundred feet, the contracted Rhine frets the foot of the precipice. The road is in places steep, and fit for only one carriage to pass. A little higher up, the gorge bulges out into a sort of basin, in the midst of which stands a solitary house; but it soon contracts again, and the scenery of the pass may be said to attain the height of grandeur beyond the first of the 3 bridges, by means of which the road is conveyed from side to side of the Rhine.

This portion of the pass at least should be traversed on foot; the traveller hurrying through in his carriage is quite incapable of appreciating its awful magnificence.

The *Middle Bridge*, a most striking object, from its graceful proportions, and the boldness with which its light arch spans the dark and deep gulf below, is approached by a second small gallery, protected by a wooden roof to ward off falling stones. Hereabouts, the lofty precipices on the one side actually overhang those on the other, the direction of the chasm being oblique, and the smooth wall of rock on either side being nearly parallel, and scarcely wider apart above than below. Looking over the parapet of this bridge, the Rhine, reduced to a thread of water, is barely visible, boiling and foaming in the depths below. Indeed, in one place it is entirely lost to view—jammed in, as it were, between the rocks, here so slightly separated, that small blocks and trunks of fir-trees, falling from above, have been caught in the chink, and remain suspended above the water. The ordinary height of the bridge above the river is 400 ft.; and the water, as mentioned above, is in one place invisible at ordinary times, yet during the inundation of 1834 the water rose to within a few feet of the bridge.

The road, again, is no more than a shelf hewn out of the face of the precipice overhung by the rock, so as to be almost a subterranean passage, and the width of the defile is, in places, not more than 24 ft. Near the 3rd, or upper bridge, however, a fine structure—built to replace the one swept off in 1834—it widens out, and the road emerges into the open valley of Schams (Sexamniensis, from 6 brooks, which fall into the Rhine from its sides), whose green meadows and neat white cottages have a pleasing effect when contrasted with the gloomy scene behind. It has, however, suffered much from the inundation of 1834, which converted the valley into a lake, destroyed a great

part of the road, and rendered a new line necessary. The first village is *Zillis*; between it and Andeer, a stone, bearing the following inscription, was set up, by the road-side, on a bridge, after the completion of the great highways over the Splügen and Bernardine :—" *Jam via patet hostibus et amicis. Cavete, Rhæti! Simplicitas morum et Unio servabunt avitam libertatem.*"

[In descending the pass travellers by voiturier should leave the carriage at the first bridge and walk through the *Via Mala* to *Tusis*. It is barely 4 m., and the voiturier will stay 2 hrs. at *Tusis*.]

*Andeer—Inn*: Hotel *Fravi*; good, and moderate charges. There are *mineral baths* here, not much frequented. This is the chief village in *Schams*, and has 400 Inhab., who, like their neighbours, are Protestants, and speak *Romansch*. Over the doors of many of the cottages, quaint verses and mottoes in that language are inscribed.

[The ascent of the *Piz Beverin* is made from *Andeer* in about 6 hrs. It is not very difficult, and the magnificence of the view well repays the fatigue. It would be well to start not later than 2 o'clock in the morning. The ascent properly begins at *Zillis*. Guide from *Andeer* 5 fr.; horse. 9 fr.; chaise à porteurs, 6½ fr. a man.]

The ruined castles visible in the valley of *Schams* have an historical interest, from being monuments of the dawn of *Grison* liberty. In the last half of the fourteenth century they served as the residences of bailiffs, *zwingherrn*, or *landvoghts*, dependants of the Counts of *Vatz* or of the Bishop of *Coire*, whose exactions at last roused the peasants to arms, and the castles were stormed and burnt. One of the first that fell was *Bärenburg*, which is passed on the l. of the road after quitting *Andeer*.

[Here is passed the opening of the *Val Ferrera* (Rte. 88), a convenient route for travellers proceeding from *Coire* to the *Engadine* who wish to take the *Via Mala* on their way.]

As soon as the road has crossed the mouth of the *Val Ferrera* it begins to mount in zigzags into the gorge of the *Rofla*, which closes up the S. end of the oval vale of *Schams*, as the *Via Mala* does the N. Its scenery, though fine, is inferior to the lower pass. The *Rhine* here descends in a cataract, called the fall of the *Rofla*. It does not rank as a first-rate waterfall, but the scenery around is very picturesque—the sides of the valley being thickly wooded, and the river studded by saw-mills, where the timber of the neighbouring forests is sawn into planks.

The road leaves the bridge on one side, traverses a small gallery cut in the rock, then crosses to the l. bank of the *Rhine*, and soon reaches

*Splügen* (Ital. *Spluga*) (*Inn*, Post, dear and uncivil). This little village is situated on the *Rhine*, at the point of departure of the two Alpine passes of the *Splügen* and *Bernardin*, at a height of 4711 ft. above the sea. It suffered severely from the flood of 1834, which swept away more than a dozen houses and five human beings. The covered bridge over the *Rhine* escaped; that over the *Serända* was soon annihilated.

*Splügen* is the chief place in the desolate pastoral vale of the *Rheinwald*, and anciently belonged to the lords of *Sax*, in the vale of *Misocco*, on the S. slope of the *Bernardin*, but it afterwards joined the *Grey League*.

The climate is very chilly here, and barley scarcely ripens.

The village prospers by the constant passage of goods and travellers to and from *Italy*. In autumn it is thronged with drovers; large herds of cattle and many horses then cross the *Alps* for the *Milan* market.

An excursion, which lies within the compass of a day, returning to sleep,

may be made from Splügen to the *Source of the Hinter-Rhein*. It will occupy 5 hrs. going; 2 along the post-road, 2 on horseback, and 1 on foot: it is described in Rte. 91.

Travellers going N. from Splügen, who have seen the *Via Mala*, may pursue with interest the wild path over the *Löchliberg* and down the *Saviën-Thal* to Coire. (Rte. 90.)

At this point properly commences the pass of the Splügen.

This pass is very ancient, having been known to the Romans; but until modern improvements it was one of the most difficult, and sometimes dangerous, of the frequented Alpine passes. The modern road was completed by the Austrian Government in 1823, to compete with the newer Swiss road over the Bernardin, which, had the Splügen been allowed to remain in its original condition, would have withdrawn from it all the traffic into Italy. The engineer employed in this undertaking was the Chevalier Donegani.

The Splügen road, turning to the L., out of that which leads to the Bernardino Pass (Rte. 91), crosses the narrow wooden bridge over the Rhine, and, quitting the river, begins at once to ascend. Fine views of snow-peaks are obtained on the ascent. It is carried up the valley of the *Oberhausen-bach*, a small torrent which joins the Rhine at Splügen, by an entirely new line, the old one having been demolished by the disastrous tempest of 1834. This little valley presented one scene of desolation: road and bridges having been entirely carried away, and enormous piles of broken rocks spread over its sides and bottom. The new line, however, on this side of the mountain, constructed by a Swiss engineer, employed by the canton of the Grisons, is, in every respect, a great improvement upon the old one. A little way above Splügen it is carried through a short tunnel, supported by a Gothic arch.

After surmounting the district of fir forests by an uninterrupted slope, the road reaches the

*Summit of the Pass*, 6940 ft. above the sea, by means of 16 skilfully conducted zigzags, by which the face of the mountain is scaled. Along this narrow ridge, which is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Splügen, and more than 1800 ft. above it, runs the boundary line of Switzerland and of Lombardy. Almost immediately after surmounting it the road begins to descend. Upon this slope lies the first cantonièra, or house of refuge; and, lower down, a series of tourniquets conduct to the

Italian Custom-house and Passport-office—a melancholy group of buildings, including several very common taverns for the entertainment of waggoners. Here luggage is searched. The custom-house stands at one end of a sort of oval basin, surrounded by lofty mountain peaks, among which, on the rt. of the road, rises that of the Splügen, and the glaciers which feed the rivers running towards Italy. It is a scene of extreme dreariness and desolation; not a shrub of any kind grows here; no vegetation is seen but lichen, mosses, and a little coarse grass. The snow often reaches up to the windows of the first story of the houses.

The old road, a mere bridle-path, proceeded from this elevated valley, or basin, direct to the village of Isola, through the defile of the *Cardinel*, a very perilous spot, from its dire and constant exposure to falling avalanches.

The French army of Marshal MacDonald, who crossed the Splügen between the 27th November and 4th December, 1800, long before the new road was begun, in the face of snow and storm, and other almost insurmountable obstacles, lost nearly 100 men, and as many horses, chiefly in the passage of the *Cardinel*. His columns were literally cut through by the falling avalanches, and man and beast swept over to certain annihilation in the abyss below. The carriage-road very properly avoids the gorge of the *Cardinel* altogether, but the way to it turns off from the second wooden bridge crossed on quitting the custom-house,

Near the scattered hamlet Teggiate the descent recommences, and soon after the road is carried through the first great Gallery, more than 700 ft. long, 15 ft. high and wide, followed by a second, 642 ft. long, and, after a short interval, by a third, 1530 ft. long. These galleries, the longest on any Alpine high road, are constructed of the most solid masonry, arched, with roofs sloping outwards, to turn aside the snow, supported on pillars, and lighted by low windows like the embrasures of a battery. They were rendered necessary to protect this portion of the road from falling avalanches which habitually descend the face of the mountains, and which, if not warded off, would have swept away the road the first year after it was made.

From the entrance of the second gallery there is a most striking view down upon the roofs of the houses of Isola, and the long line of zigzags, abandoned since 1838, by which the traveller originally descended to Chiavenna. At the village of *Pianazzo* (a cluster of pitch-coloured hovels), the new line, after descending 2 angular terraces, turns off to the l. This alteration, by which nearly 3 m. of distance are saved, was rendered necessary on account of the injury done to the whole line by the storm of 1834, and also by the great dangers to which that part of the route, between Isola and the Cascade of the Madesimo, was exposed from avalanches, which fall regularly into the savage glen of the Lira, below Pianazzo, producing an almost annual loss of life. In 1835 5 peasants and 8 horses were overwhelmed by the snow in this glen as they were returning from conducting the diligence on a sledge over the mountain. The postilion, being nearest the rock, which fortunately somewhat overhung the road, drew the horse he rode under the cliff as soon as he heard the crash; to this circumstance he and the animal owed their preservation. Although buried like the rest, who perished, they were rescued and dug out after an imprisonment of some hours.

*Pianazzo* stands at the same height above the sea as the bridge over the Rhine at Splügen. The road, after passing through it, crosses the little stream of the *Madessimo*, within a few yards of the verge of the precipice, over which it throws itself in a beautiful fall, 800 ft. high. The view, looking down the fall from a terrace near the bridge, is very fine; it is also well seen from the different winding terraces down which the road is carried. [From near the bridge, ascending the stream of the *Madesimo*, there is a practicable pass to Canicul in the Val Ferrera.] After crossing the bridge, the road traverses some galleries, and gradually descends by numerous zigzags down the face of something nearly approaching to a precipice. This is a most extraordinary piece of engineering, and well deserves examination. It is of course best seen on the ascent.

*Campo Dolcino*, which, in spite of its sweet-sounding Italian name, is but a poor village, with a tolerable Inn (Post, civil people), on a small grassy plain, on the borders of the *Lira*.

A further improvement has been made in the continuation of the road, which, on quitting the plain, threads the gorge of *St. Giacomo*; an inscription, by the road-side, commemorates its completion by Carlo Donegani, in the reign of the Emperor Francis II. It was effected at considerable labour and expense, by cutting through the rock. The vale of the Lira presents a singular aspect of desolation, from the quantity and size of the masses of fallen rock which entirely filled the lower part of it. They are fragments of the neighbouring mountains, which are composed of a species of white gneiss, exceedingly brittle, and which, after exposure to the weather, assumes a red colour. It must have been a difficult task to carry a road through such a wilderness, between such a labyrinth of detached blocks; and it is accordingly in many places narrow, the turnings very sharp, and the terraces too short. The aspect of desolation in this fractured valley would be

greater were it not for the rich dark foliage of the chesnut-trees, of very large size, which now begin to sprout out from among the rocks so as to mask their barrenness. The tall white Italian campanile of the church of Madonna di Gallivaggio, amid such a group of foliage, contrasting with the tall precipices around, forms an agreeable picture. Near it, at the village St. Giacomo, whence the valley is named, the Lira is spanned by a new and bold bridge.

A mile or two farther on, the valley opens out, and Chiavenna expands to view, a picturesque town, beautifully situated, under an Italian sun, surrounded by hills clothed with the richest vegetation, with vines and fig-trees.

*Chiavenna* (Germ. Clefen, Clavena of the ancients) — *Inns*: Conradi's, fair; Chiave d'Oro, also good, cheaper; — a town of 3040 Inhab., is charmingly situated in the midst of vineyards, close under the mountains, which appear to impend over it, at the junction of the valley of St. Giacomo with that of the Maira, called Val Bregaglia. Beyond this beauty of situation there is very little here to interest the passing traveller. The town presents a decayed appearance, and many large houses half ruinous, but derives much benefit from its position on the Splügen road, and maintains several spinning-mills for silk and cotton. An ingenious manufacturer named Vanossi at one time wove here a fire-proof cloth of asbestos, a mineral which abounds in the mountains of the neighbourhood. Opposite Conradi's inn, at the foot of a rock, is a large ruined *Palazzo* which once belonged to the Salis family: strangers are admitted to enjoy the fine view from the summit of the rock. The principal *Ch. of St. Lawrence* has a tall campanile standing within a square enclosure, surrounded by a cloister. On one side are two bone-houses, filled with skulls arranged in patterns, and, adjoining them, in the octagonal *Baptistery*, is an ancient stone font, sculptured with rude bas-reliefs, which

will interest the antiquary. The citizens keep their Valteline wine in natural grottoes at the foot of the mountains, which form excellent cool cellars and are called Ventorali.

[Near Pleurs, about 3 m. up the Val Bregaglia, memorable for the fate of its inhabitants, who were buried by the fall of a mountain (Rte. 94), is a peculiar manufacture of a coarse ware for culinary purposes, made out of potstone (*lapis ollaris*). This stone is easily cut, or turned in a lathe, and is able to endure heat. Pliny calls it *lapis Comensis*, from its being exported from the lake of Como: the manufacture has greatly dwindled down at present.]

The description of the road up the beautiful Val Bregaglia and over the pass of the Maloja, by way of Pleurs, is given in Rte. 94.

Chiavenna belonged to the Dukes of Milan down to the 16th century, when the Swiss became possessed of it, and it formed, with the Valteline and Bormio, a state subject to the canton of the Grisons. Napoleon added it to the kingdom of Italy, as lying on the S. side of the Alps; and the Congress of Vienna, by the same rule, transferred it to the Emperor of Austria.

The *Fall of the Gardona*, about 4 m. from Chiavenna, is worth notice. At the distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the town on the Riva road, the river on the rt. must be crossed. A walk of  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. leads thence to the Fall.

The diligences through Chiavenna to Coire in  $13\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. pass at a very early or late hour. A voiturier to Coire charges 100 frs., sleeping the first night at Andeer, and arriving in the afternoon of the second day at Ragatz. A bargain should be made that he should change horses at Campo Dolcino, and so go at a better pace and avoid waiting 2 hrs. at that dull spot. For the road from Chiavenna to Lecco and the Lake of Como see Rte. 116.

## ROUTE 88.

ANDEER TO CASACCIA, BY THE AVERS  
THAL, FORCELLINA AND SEPTIMER  
PASSES.

11 hrs. steady walking: take provisions.

This is the best route for travellers going from Coire to the Engadine wishing to see the Via Mala on their way, but it is little known and unfrequented.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. above Andeer a considerable torrent joins l. the Hinter Rhein flowing out of a valley that opens S.E. This torrent is called the *Avers Rhein*, and the main valley through which it flows is the *Avers Thal* or *Val Aversa*. The lower part of this valley, however, is called *Val Ferrera*. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hr. from the opening of the valley there is a fine waterfall, and the path is carried through a narrow thickly-wooded defile, and passing some marble-quarries reaches

*Canicùl*, about 3 hrs. from Andeer; and nearly 3 hrs. farther, ascending by a tolerable path, the chief village of the valley,

*Cresta*, is reached. There is no *Inn* either here or at *Canicùl*, but in both places the clergymen receive hospitably the few strangers who pass. Of course, on leaving, a present should be made in such cases to the clergyman's wife or housekeeper. *Cresta* is a large village, and one of the highest in the Alps, being more than 6000 ft. above the sea. The last straggling pine-trees are seen about the village. Above this the valley opens out into a wide expanse of Alpine pastures, which reach nearly to the summits of the mountains that enclose the head of the valley. About 4 m. beyond *Cresta* a group of chalets called *Juf* is passed. [From thence there is a pass called *Valetta*, towards the N.E., to Bivio on the road of the Julier (Rte. 92). The summit may be reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from *Cresta*: 2 hrs. from the summit is Bivio.]

The higher pass of the *Furcula*, or *Furkel*, over which lies the route to Casaccia, is at the eastern extremity of the Avers Thal. The ascent presents no difficulty; but as there is little to point out the true direction, which lies a little N. of E., a guide is required. The summit of the *Furcula Pass* (8847 ft.)—about 3 hrs. from *Cresta*—commands a wide view over a wilderness of peaks, limited in part by the higher ranges immediately near at hand. The descent on the E. side lies over a slope of snow scarcely steep enough for a glissade, and then over rocks until the horse-track over the *Septimer Pass* is reached close to the summit, where once stood a small hospice, or place of refuge, now in ruins.

The *Septimer*, now an indifferent horse-path, but well traced and not difficult, leads from Bivio to Casaccia, 4 or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours' walk. The S. side is much more steep and stony than the other side. The summit is 7616 ft. above the sea-level. The view from this is fine; the *Piz Muretto* and *Monte del Oro* being conspicuous features in it. Though impracticable for any kind of vehicles, this was once a frequented highway between Italy and Switzerland until the formation of the carriage-road over the *Splügen*, which, being a lower pass, and 10 m. shorter, is of course preferred to it. On the *Monte Lunghino* (9120 ft.), between the passes of *Septimer*, *Julier*, and *Maloya*, are situated the sources of the *Maira* flowing into the Adriatic, of the *Oberhalbstein Rhein* flowing into the North Sea; and the river *Inn* rises out of a small lake and flows into the Black Sea. Thus, one single mountain distributes its rills between the three great seas which bathe the continent of Europe, and in this respect it is unique.

In about 2 hrs. from the summit of the *Furkel Pass* the traveller reaches *Casaccia* (Rte. 94), where very fair quarters may be found at *Gioannini's Inn*. This pass, though it offers no difficulty to the mountaineer, is rather a hard day's work of about 11 hrs. steady walking.



# ROUTE 89.

SPLÜGEN TO ILANZ, BY THE PASS OF THE VALSERBERG AND THE PETER'S THAL.

Splügen to	Hrs.
Nüfenen . . . . .	1½
Summit . . . . .	3¼
Vals . . . . .	2½
Peiden . . . . .	3¼
Ilanz . . . . .	2½
	—
	13

“The great road of the Bernardin is followed as far as Nüfenen, more than an hour above Splügen. Some 3 or 4 minutes after passing through Nüfenen, the footpath to the Valserberg branches off to the rt. by the side of a little stream, reaches in a few minutes more the base of the chain rising from the valley on the N., and continues to ascend along its side at the foot of a line of cliffs. These cliffs extend to the top of the pass, and are an excellent guide to it, the way up being always at a short distance from their base. A wooded spur separates the hollow looking towards Nüfenen from that leading down to Hinterrhein. After an ascent of less than an hour, this spur is crossed nearly at its point of divergence from the northern chain, and just above the wood which clothes its lower part. The high pastures overlooking Hinterrhein are now reached, and the path from that village falls in. There is a very good view from this point.

“The last ascent to the Valserberg is rather steep, but is marked by poles, and the highest point of the pass is attained in something less than 3 hrs. from Splügen. The Col is a narrow gap in the crest of the chain, covered with snow, and elevated nearly 7500 feet above the sea-level.

“The view to the north is very wild. Several bare mountain ranges are seen, and above them the whole line of the Alps of Glarus, from the Tödi to the Scheibe, an unbroken bank of snow from end to end.

“For nearly an hour after the summit of the Valserberg the way is marked by poles: the highest chalets are then reached, and a stream from the right crossed. An hour and a half more are necessary to gain Vals or St. Peter's Plaz (a small *Inn*), where the main valley of the Glenner is entered. This is divided into three districts; the lower valley of Lugnetz, the side valley of Vrin, and the upper valley of Vals, called also St. Peter's Thal. In this last district the language is German, as well as in the valley of the Rheinwald and the neighbouring Savien Thal. In the districts of Lugnetz and Vrin Romansch is spoken.

[The scenery of the St. Peter's Thal above Vals is said to be of the grandest character. The last village, *Zavreila*, is about 3 hrs. above Vals. The path passes in great part through magnificent pine-forests above a formidably deep gorge, at the bottom of which the river works its way. *Zavreila* is completely surrounded by snowy peaks and glaciers, but there are several passes over which the practised mountaineer may make his way. One, over glacier, leads nearly due S. to the valley of the Hinter Rhein, some miles above the village of the same name; a second, called *La Lenta*, to Olivone in the Val Blegno, a difficult glacier pass; a third, not so difficult, also reaches the Val Blegno, a little above Olivone, mounting due W. from the chalets of *Alpersch*, the last in the St. Peter's Thal.]

A very high and narrow gorge above Plaz cuts short in that direction the little plain in which the village is situated. Another defile terminates it to the N. about half a mile below Plaz. This ravine, through which the path to Ilanz, having crossed the river, is now conducted, is one of the grandest gorges by which the Alps are riven. The river is again crossed to its right bank, where a landing from the bridge has only been effected by hewing a shelf out of the rock. The way is afterwards cut with some difficulty along a broken declivity, till the valley opens out at the

chalets of Feistenberg and Montasg, finely placed on the green slopes. A second gorge succeeds, and the path is forced to ascend, scarcely finding ground for its course, until a little oratory by its side marks the close of the ascent and of the long defile (6 m.), and the fertile valley of Lugnetz opens out to the N.

Into its fields the path now descends. The river is crossed some distance lower down, by a bridge just above the

Chalybeate Baths of Peiden; homely accommodation at the Bad-haus, 50 beds, belonging to the medical man of the place. This is too low down the valley to be a good centre for mountain excursions. It lies in a sheltered nook open to the sun. Its neighbourhood is rich in little-known peaks, passes, and glaciers. A wretched char-road leads from Peiden to Ilanz.

From St. Peter's Plaz to Ilanz is a walk of full 5 hrs. (See Rtes. 82, 86.)

almost uninhabited E. side is in places formed by precipices, the rocky escarpment of Mount Heinzenberg. The path is carried up the l. or W. bank of the Rabbiusa, by the hamlets of Tenna, Areza, Neukirch, Platz, where the Rathhaus Inn is ill provided.

[A deep path strikes off hence over the col called *Stägs* across a shoulder of the Piz Beveren to Tisis, 4 hours. The beginning of the ascent is very steep, but afterwards lies over the grass. The summit of the pass is about 6000 ft., and is reached in 1½ hr. from Platz. It commands a fine view over the Grison Alps. The descent to Tisis traverses the remarkable plateau of the Heinzenberg, an open plain rising by degrees above the valley of Domlesch.]

From Platz the direct way to Splügen continues over the meadows of the Camana Alp to Thalkirche, the oldest and highest church in the district. Now begins the ascent of the *Löchliberg*, 8442 ft. above the sea-level.

A steep descent leads down to the village *Splügen* (see Rte. 87).

## ROUTE 90.

REICHENAU TO SPLÜGEN, BY THE SAVIEN-  
THAL AND PASS OF THE LÖCHLIBERG.

11½ hrs. A bridle-path the greater part of the way. Our road runs up the rt. bank of the Vorder-Rhein, through Bonaduz, as far as the German Protestant village *Versam*, where the fearful gulf of the Versamer Tobel is crossed by a very remarkable wooden bridge, with a span of 200 ft. (probably the widest wooden bridge on this principle existing), and 232 ft. above the torrent Savien. The builder is the engineer La Nicca. Here a path turns S. up the wild valley of the Savien or Rabbiusa, a very remarkable ravine, "wilder than the Via Mala," of which the W. side only is cultivated and inhabited by a Protestant population of about 1000 souls, Germans, who were settled here in the days of the Hohenstaufen Emperors. The

## ROUTE 91.

PASS OF THE BERNARDIN—SPLÜGEN  
TO BELLINZONA.

Post road, 7 posts = 63 miles.

Splügen.	Posts.	Eng. m.
Hinterrhein . . . . .	1	9
St. Bernardino . . . . .	14	154
Misocco . . . . .	17	124
Camana . . . . .	18	141
Bellinzona . . . . .	18	11.

These are the distances charged in posting, and may slightly exceed the measured distances. In posting from Coire by the Splügen to Chiavenna the same carriage may be taken all the way, but on the Bernardino road the carriage is changed at each stage between Splügen and Bellinzona.

The road from Coire over the Bernardino is the same as that over the Splügen up to Splügen. Diligence from Coire to Bellinzona, 17 hrs.;

Splügen to Bellinzona, 10 hrs. Voiturier from Ragatz in 2½ days, 160 fr. The Inns on this road are better than on the other pass; that at St. Bernardino is excellent. It is the custom to stop at Bellinzona, but it is better to go on to Locarno, a much prettier place, and the hotel equally good. The supply of post-horses on this road is very small, and difficulties are sometimes experienced in getting on.

The road over the Bernardin was constructed in 1822, under the direction of the engineer Pocobelli, at the joint expense of the Sardinian and Grison governments. About 6-7ths of the sum required were advanced by the King of Sardinia, who duly appreciated the advantages to his dominions to be derived from a highway which should connect, by a direct line, the port of Genoa and the capital Turin with Switzerland and W. Germany.

The road, leaving the bridge of Splügen (Rte. 87) on the l., advances up the valley of Hinter-Rhein, whose stern and barren features have less of beauty than of wildness, along the l. bank of the Rhine through Nüfanen, distant about 7 m. to

*Hinterrhein* (Inn: Post, clean), the highest village in the valley; no grain but barley grows.

[Hence to the source of the Rhine will take up 6 or 7 hours going and returning, exclusive of stoppages. A multitude of streamlets trickle down from the crevices in the surrounding mountains, where deep snow rests almost all the year round, to feed the infant Rhine. The Source of the Rhine lies about 10 miles higher up the valley, ½ of which distance, or ½ late in the summer, can be performed on horseback, the rest on foot; the latter part of the walk especially is difficult and fatiguing, over débris and melting snow, and the assistance of a guide is necessary to find the way. The scenery of the upper part of the valley is savagely grand, and well deserves the notice of travellers. The river takes its rise at the very extremity of this

frost-bound valley, from beneath the *Rheinwald glacier*, filling a depression between the *Rheinwaldhorn* (10,912 ft.) and the Zaporthorn. At the end of about 4 miles the path begins to ascend, and is soon lost in crossing steep slopes covered with débris of rock, so that a previous knowledge of the direction will alone enable the traveller to reach the source by himself. A small rocky and swampy green spot, on which a few sheep may be seen feeding immediately beneath the glacier of the Moschel Horn, surrounded on all sides by snow and glaciers, is called ironically "Paradies." Immediately opposite, and on the other side of the Rhine, here struggling through the stones, is a savage gorge or rent in the rock called "Hölle." The narrow path skirts its edge. To this succeeds a rapid rise. In ½ an hour more you come to the head of the valley, a small verdant flat plain, whence you look down on the fountain-head in the glacier, which is sometimes hollowed out into a magnificent dome or cavern.]

There is a fine Pass, the *Valserberg*, from Hinter-Rhein to Ilanz (Rte. 89).

The road over the Bernardin bids adieu to the Rhine at Hinter-Rhein, crossing it by a stone bridge, after which you immediately begin to ascend, breasting the steep slope of the mountain by sixteen zigzags; many of the turnings are very abrupt.

A striking view opens out on the rt., over the head of the Rhine valley and the glaciers, whence it bursts forth. On the rt. of the road rises the gigantic mass of the Moschel-Horn, and on the l. the black peak of the Mittag-Horn overhangs the pass.

This passage over the Alps is said to have been known to the Romans: it was called the Vogelberg down to the beginning of the fifteenth century, when a pious missionary, St. Bernardin of Sienna, preached the Gospel through these remote Alpine valleys, and a chapel dedicated to him, on the S. side of the mountain, gave rise to the name which it still retains. It was traversed, in March, 1799, by the

French army of Lecourbe, at a season when winter still reigns on these elevations, and before the mountain possessed any other road than a miserable mule-path.

The summit of the pass, about 7010 ft. above the sea, and 2400 ft. above the village of Splügen, is partly occupied by a lake called *Lago Moesola*, the source of the Moesa, along whose margin the road runs. At this point a very substantial but homely inn, or house of refuge, has been erected. The head of this pass is grander and less dreary than the heads of the other great passes.

A little way down the S. slope of the mountain, the Moesa is crossed by a handsome bridge of a single arch, 110 ft. above the river, named after Victor Emanuel, King of Sardinia, who contributed so largely to the construction of this road. The carriage-way is here covered over for some distance with a substantial roof, supported on solid buttresses, to protect it from avalanches and whirlwinds of snow, to which this gully is much exposed at times. A few straggling and stunted pines here make their appearance; a little lower down, trees 40 or 50 ft. high may be seen clinging to the rock, with barely 2 ft. depth of soil beneath them; their roots scarcely strike downwards at all, but spread far and wide in a horizontal direction, so that when a tree is thrown down by the wind, roots and soil are peeled off at once, and nothing but bare rock remains below. The S. face of the mountain is also far more abrupt and precipitous than the N.; but the road is so skilfully carried down it, and so gradually, that a postilion, accustomed to it, trots quickly down the whole way, turning sharp round the corners of the zigzags. The traveller beholds the road almost beneath his feet, extending like an uncoiled rope below him, and as he moves backwards and forwards, following its turns, he appears to hover over the valley below, and might fancy himself fastened to the end of a pendulum, and balanced in mid-air. The passage of the

mountain from Hinter-Rhein to St. Bernardino is effected in about 3½ hrs.; and on a comparatively level spot is

*St. Bernardino* (Inns: H. Brocco, large and good; H. Ravizzo; H. Motto), a village and watering-place, the first and loftiest in the valley of Misocco, consisting of a few houses planted half way down the descent on a small plain or ledge, in a romantic situation. There is a mineral spring with *Baths* here, having a temperature of about 40° Fahr., and a strong taste of ink. It is one of the highest mineral sources among the Alps, and annually draws a considerable number of patients to the spot, for whom large hotels and pensions have been built. The situation of this village is very fine, and it would serve as excellent head-quarters for a mountaineer wishing to explore the neighbouring ranges.

After leaving St. Bernardino the road ascends for about 2 m., and then plunges by a series of curious and complicated zigzags into the lower valley of *Misocco* (in Germ. *Masox* or *Misox Thal*; Ital. *Val Mesolcina*), which is celebrated for its beauty. Near the road are two very fine falls of the Moesa.

Near *St. Giacomo* there are quarries of gypsum: here there is also a fall of the Moesa. It is a continued descent as far as Misocco and the Ponte di Soazza, which is only a few hundred feet higher than Coire, in the valley of the Rhine. This will give some idea of the abruptness of the southern descent from the Alps contrasted with the northern.

*Misocco* (Inn: \*H. Toscani), a village of about 900 Inhab., called also *Cremao*. The views from its churchyard and old castle are fine.

In the neighbourhood of Misocco the luxuriant growth of the chestnut and walnut, the abundant crops of maize, the presence of the vine and the mulberry, which succeed each other within the space of a few miles, remind the traveller that he is indeed in Italy; and he soon becomes otherwise aware of this change by the

altered language, the laziness and filth of the inhabitants, and their miserable habitations. The situation of Misocco is charming. A little way below it, in the middle of the valley, rises up the ruined *Castle of Misocco*, a feudal seat of the powerful lords of Masox, sold by them, 1482, to the Milanese general Trivulzio, taken and destroyed by the Graübündtners, 1526. The valley is here bounded by precipices, over and among whose rocky sides a number of waterfalls dash, assuming the shape of that which in Scotland is called the Mare's Tail. The knoll on which the castle stands seems formed to command the passage up and down.

From *Soazza* a very steep and difficult path, not practicable for horses, ascends the E. side of the valley, and leads to Chiavenna in 8 hrs. by the *Forcola* pass.

The valley of Misocco has lost much of its beauty and cheerfulness since the fearful thunderstorm and inundation of August, 1834, which overwhelmed the land in many places with torrents of rocks, and has left behind beds of gravel and alluvium in places 90 ft. high, thus condemning it to sterility. 50 houses, 200 chalets, and many bridges were swept away. An inscription has been attached to a huge mass, stating that it and others descended from the *Forcola*.

Below *Soazza* the road runs along the rt. bank of the Moesa. On the rt., the graceful *Cascade of Buffalora* precipitates itself from the top of a rock.

*Lostallo* (Inn: Post, tolerable). The general legislative assemblies of the men of the valley are held here.

2½ m. farther is the post station at *Cama*. Here figs and mulberries begin to appear.

*Reggio*.

At Grono the Val Calanca opens out from the W.

*Roveredo*—(Inns: Croce Bianca, tolerable; Canone d'Oro)—a village containing nearly 1000 Inhab., with the ruined castle of Trivulzio in its vicinity. The Prior of Roveredo and 11 old women were burnt for practising

witchcraft by Carlo Borromeo, in 1583, at his first visitation of the diocese. The rivers hereabouts are used to float down the timber cut in the forests of the higher transverse valleys.

*St. Vittore* is the last village in the canton of the Grisons: below it we enter the canton Tessin and the Val Levantina, and our road joins that descending from the St. Gothard (Rte. 34). The entire valley of the Misocco, down to its junction with the Val Levantina, is amongst the most beautiful in the Alps. Passing the battle-field of Arbedo, we reach

*Bellinzona* (Rte. 34). Travellers who have slept at Bernardino may easily push on to Locarno (Rte. 113), which has the advantage of a more beautiful position, and of being the first point at which the steamers touch in going from Magadino to Arona. By taking the first steamer from Magadino or Locarno, and the railway from Arona to Alessandria, Turin or Genoa may be reached about 2 P.M.

## ROUTE 92.

PASS OF THE JULIER, FROM COIRE TO SAMADEN.

5½ posts = 53 miles.

	Posts.	Eng. m.
Coire.		
Churwalden . . .	4	= 64
Tiefenkasten . . .	1½	= 11½
Molins . . . . .	1½	= 11½
Silva Plana . . . .	1½	= 15½
Samaden . . . . .	½	= 8

A carriage-road finished 1839. Engineer, M. la Nicca. It is traversed daily in summer except Sunday, by a *diligence* as far as Samaden, in 12 hrs.

The scenery on this route is very beautiful and interesting. Instead of following the valley of the Rhine, which leads to the W. above Coire, the road on leaving the town immediately begins to ascend by zigzags towards the S., following the course of the Rabiusa torrent. On the l. is seen the opening of the Schalfig Thal (Rte. 99), whose torrent (the Plessur)

is mingled with the Rabiusa just outside the town. Passing the village of *Malix* (near which rises the picturesque castle *Strasberg*),

*Churwalden* (Inns: Kreuz; Krone) and *Parpan* (Post). Near the summit of the pass see the Lake of Vatz, &c., rt., backed by firs; the time-honoured stone *Gallows* of Ober-Vatz. Over a barren heath, to

*Lenz* — (Inn: Krone; a tolerable dining-place). Beyond Lenz, the Romansch tongue (Rte. 66) is almost exclusively spoken; German is rarely understood, except in the inns.

The road descends in numerous curves to the level of the river *Albula*, which enters the Rhine through the remarkable Schyn defile near *Tusis* (Rte. 87), and is crossed in order to reach

*Tiefenkasten* (Rom. Casté), (Inn, H. *Albula*, good, clean, and comfortable; Kreutz), a village, situated, as its name implies, in a deep hollow, at the entrance of the Oberhalbstein, or valley running S. up to the foot of the Julier and Septimer, a distance of about 20 m. It is scattered over with ruins of castles; no less than 10 of which may still be counted, and concentrates in itself an extraordinary combination of grand features.

The road leading to the *Albula Pass* (Rte. 93) here turns to the l. There is a short cut from the village of Lenz.

Immediately above *Tiefenkasten* the road quits the valley of the *Albula*, again ascends, and is carried along the edge of a cliff called *Stein*, high above the Oberhalbstein Rhein. The gorge near this has been compared, in its scenery, with the *Via Mala*.

The valley near *Tinzen* is very bleak and bare. The *Castle of Splüdsch*, surmounted by a square tower, rises between the road and river. A constant and steep ascent through more picturesque scenery brings you to the village of

*Molins, Mühlen* (Inn, Löwe, very fair), in a little amphitheatre, amidst the finest scenery of the Oberhalbstein. To reach *Mühlen*, the road crosses the stream of the *Falleer*, and, recrossing

it to the next village, *Marmels*, brings you at length to

*Bivio* or *Stalla* (Inn: Löwe), at the foot of the *Pitz d'Emet*. This very poor and inhospitable-looking village lies at the branching of 2 passes, the Julier and Septimer (*Bivium*). The Septimer leads into the *Val Bregaglia* (Rte. 88). *Bivio* is placed in a secluded basin, shut in by high mountains, in a climate so severe that all vegetation is stunted. Not a tree can grow in the neighbourhood, and the people are reduced to burn sheep-dung for fuel. Potatoes rarely ripen at this height—5630 ft. above the sea.

It takes about 2 hrs. to ascend the winding road from *Stalla* to the *Summit of the Julier Pass*, 7625 ft. above the sea-level. The ascent is not difficult, and the pass is remarkably safe from avalanches. Its scenery is not particularly grand, the outline of the mountains being round. On the top, the road passed between two rudely hewn pillars of granite (derived from the neighbouring mountains), called *Julius's Columns*. They are about 4 ft. high, and destitute of inscription. Down to the 16th cent. it is known from records that only one column existed, which in 1538 fell down and broke. It may have been a mile-stone. Owing to some alterations in the road, one of these columns was removed from its place 1854, when Roman coins were found at its base. Augustus caused a highway to be carried from *Chiavenna* over the passes of the *Malöja* and *Julier*. A carriage-road was formed across this pass to *St. Moritz* in 1823; but as no attempt was made for many years to improve the approach to it through the Oberhalbstein, little advantage was gained by it. Flocks of *Bergamesque* sheep are often seen on the highest pastures, near the summit of the pass, in summer, attended by wild-looking, picturesque shepherds from the *Val Brembana*.

The descent into the Engadine, passing the *Julier Alp* and its chalets, is less abrupt. Between lofty precipices a fine view of the *Bernina chain*



is disclosed and its glaciers. The village of

*Silva Plana* (Inn: Kreuz, clean) is situated on meadows, between 2 small and strangely green lakes, which are feeders and reservoirs of the river Inn, at the junction of the roads from the passes of the Bernina, Julier, and Malöja, with the high road down the Engadine, 5560 ft. above the sea. [To Pontresina over the Surlei and down the Val Rosegg, in 8½ hrs. (Rte. 96).]

4 m. further, on the l. bank of the Inn, stands

*St. Moritz* (in Romansch San Mu-rezzan).—Inns: Engadiner Kulm, comfortable; Kreuz; Pension Bavier. The Kurhaus, a large establishment, can accommodate 300 persons: table-d'hôte, billiard and reading-rooms; 20 min. walk from village, close to the principal mineral spring. This little village is rapidly rising into repute as a watering-place, upon the strength of its very powerful chalybeate waters, first described, 1539, by Paracelsus. They are efficacious in cases of scrofula, stomach complaints, &c. The water is heated for the *Baths*, of which there are 80 in the Kurhaus. The spring rises at the foot of Mount Rosegg, on the rt. bank of the Inn, in a marshy meadow.

The village contains about 300 Inhab., and is situated on the W. and S. slopes of a hill 5581 ft. above the sea. It overlooks the Inn, and several beautiful green lakes which that river forms in this part of its course. The climate is too cold to allow even barley to flourish; the surrounding land is chiefly laid out in pastures, and there are some forests of larch on the neighbouring mountains. The little lake close to the village, which is generally frozen over from the end of November to the beginning of May, furnishes capital trout.

*Carriages*.—1 horse, for the day, 15 fr.; 2 horses, 30 fr. There is a printed *Tariff* of charges.

*Guides*.—6 to 8 fr. the day; return, 6 fr. See *Tariff*.

A pleasant and easy walk of ½ hr. leads up to the *Piz St. Gian*, from

which a fine view is gained over the upper part of the Inn valley.

The principal *Excursions* to be made from St. Moritz are (a) up the valley to the Lugni See, the source of the Inn (Rte. 94); (b) Piz Nair 10,040 ft. to the W., 3 hrs. ascent with donkeys or horses. View of the Bernina, as beautiful as from Piz Languard. (c) Up the Suvretta valley, over the col, past the lake (8590 ft.), and down the North Suvretta valley, and the valley of Bevers, to Bevers, thus far 7 hrs. Back by carriage-road to St. Moritz. (d) Piz Ot (see below, Samâden). (e) Pontresina (Rte. 96).

N.B.—Read account of the *Engadine* prefixed to Rte. 95; also the description of the Bernina in Rte. 96. Many of the excursions described in them may be made from St. Moritz or Samâden.

Just below St. Moritz, the Inn, on quitting the small lake, forms a pretty fall. A little further the valley of the Inn opens out in a straight line as far as Zernets. The first villages passed are Cresta, Celerina (*Rom. Schlarginna*), and

*Samâden* (*Rom. Samedan*), the principal and wealthiest village in the Upper Engadine, with 500 Inhab. (Inns: Hotel Bernina, good and comfortable, well kept by Mad. Fanconi; convenient head-quarters; — Krone; — Piz Ot). Here are mansions of the ancient families Salis and Planta. Samâden is well situated in view of the Bernina chain, and within a short distance of the finest scenery. It is, perhaps, the best head-quarters for exploring its beauties and those of the Engadine. Guides, horses, and carriages in abundance.

*Charges*.—Horse to Piz Ot or Muottas-Muragl, 7 fr. *Carriage*, 1-horse, to St. Moritz Baths, 5 fr.; Silva Plana, 6 fr.; Sils, 8 fr.; Maloja, 12 fr.; Morteratsch Glacier, 7 fr.; Bernina Pass, 12 fr.; Ponte, 4 fr. For 2 horses the charge is about double.

[*Excursions*. — (a) Ascent of the *Muottas* to the E. (7975 ft.), in 2½ hrs.; view mainly confined to a portion of the Bernina Glaciers, and to the upper Engadine with its lakes.

(b) The *Ascent of the Piz Ot*, to the N.N.E. (10,690 ft.), in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. Take a guide, as the path is not easy to find; and provisions, as none are to be obtained on the way. The ascent is perhaps steeper throughout than that of the Piz Tanguard (Rte. 96), but the view from the summit is in many respects finer, as it includes the beautiful Monte della Disgrazia. The range of the Bernina is presented in such different aspects from the two summits, that pedestrians are recommended to make both ascents. Mules or horses might possibly be taken half way, as far as a fountain of delicious water that issues from under a block of granite, but the remainder must be mounted on foot.]

*Eilwägen* to Coire daily. Opposite to Samaden, S., the valley of Pontresina opens out, up which runs the road to the Bernina (Rte. 96). The village of *Pontresina*,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Samaden, is another convenient centre from which to explore the mountains.

## ROUTE 93.

COIRE TO SAMADEN IN THE ENGADINE,  
BY WEISSENSTEIN AND THE ALBULA  
PASS.

$16\frac{1}{2}$  stunden =  $49\frac{1}{2}$  Eng. m.

This is a more interesting route than that by the Julier pass. It is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.' moderate walking from Lenz to Samaden. A carriage-road was made across it, 1865. Diligence daily Coire to Samaden in 12 hrs., halting at Bergun to dine. As far as

15 m. *Lenz*, it is identical with the preceding route. The diligence for Samaden leaves Coire at 5 A.M., so that an active pedestrian may accomplish the entire distance in 1 day, taking his place to Lenz only, or Filisur, or perhaps even as far as the deserted Bellaluna iron-works, 2 m. beyond Filisur, beyond which the road is so hilly that little, if any, time will be

saved. At Lenz the road to the Albula turns round the shoulder of the mountain to the E., leaving Tiefenkasten on the rt.; and passing the village of (1 hr.) Brienz, and on the l. the castle of Belfort, perched on an almost inaccessible rock, reaches

*Alvencu*. The baths of Alvencu, on the rt. bank of the Albula, are between 1 and 2 m. from the village. Here is a sulphur spring and homely accommodation. Crossing the mouth of the Davos Thal and the stream running out of it, we follow the Albula, ascending, in a S.E. direction, to

9 m. *Filisur*, a large white and picturesque village on its rt. bank, having a marked resemblance in its peculiarities to the villages of the Engadine. There are 2 Inns, kept by Risch and Schmidt. Near it, to the N., stand the ruins of Schloss Greifenstein. The inhabitants of this and the adjoining valley emigrate from home to various parts of Europe, where they exercise the craft of pastrycooks, frequently returning hither to end their days in opulence earned by industry. Two miles above Filisur are the abandoned iron-works of Bellaluna, and 4 miles from hence the path enters the narrow ravine called *Berguner-Stein*, which, like that near Tiefenkasten, has been compared with the Via Mala; "and certainly in some respects bears a strong resemblance, though of far inferior extent and sublimity. Its outlet, however, is singularly fine."—*J. F.* For a distance of more than 1000 ft. the road is hewn, or blasted, out of the face of the rock, and the Albula roars at a depth of 500 or 600 ft. below. It is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Lenz to

*Bergün* (Rom. Bergogn) (*Inas*: the Landamman Cloettas; Post), a village of about 600 Inhab., chiefly Protestants, speaking Romansch. The houses in this village are nearly all of a superior class, indicating the comparative wealth of the population, many of whom are muleteers or carters by profession, who established themselves here when this route was more frequented. It is beautifully situated among the mountains.

A steep ascent of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. passing many waterfalls, leads to the small Inn of

11 m. *Weissenstein*, containing 6 beds. There was a lake by its side, that burst its bounds in 1859, and has drained itself dry. It is said to be possible for an active mountaineer to cross the ridge S. of the *Weissenstein* and descend by the *Val Bevers* to the high road near *Samaden*, but guides are not easily to be found here. The ascent from this point is very rapid; the path lies along the N. side of the bed of the former lake; traces of the Roman road may be discovered near this. A savage ravine, filled with broken rocks, hurled from the heights above, along with the avalanches, which render this part of the pass dangerous in spring, brings the traveller in about 1 hr. to

2 m. the summit of the *Pass of the Albula*. The culminating point, marked by a cross, is 7680 ft. above the sea-level; on the other side of it is a small lake. It is a scene of complete desolation. On the N. of the path rise the two peaks of the *Albula*—*Crap Alv*, or *White Rock*; and on the S.E. that of *Piz Err*.

The descent into the *Ober Engadine* is also at times exposed to avalanches. It is 2 hrs. walk from the summit to

6 m. *Ponté* or *Punt* (Inns: *Albula*; *Couronne*, not bad). The village lies just at the foot of the pass, and in one of the most striking and populous parts of this singular valley. The road ascends the valley of the Inn, to

5 m. *Samaden*, where there are good quarters.—See Rte. 94.

## ROUTE 94.

CHIAVENNA TO SAMADEN, BY THE VAL BREGAGLIA AND THE PASS OF THE MALOGGIA OR MALOJA.

$11\frac{1}{2}$  leagues =  $34\frac{1}{2}$  Eng. m.

	Leagues.	Eng. m.
Chiavenna.		
Vico Soprano . . .	4	= 12
Silva Plana . . .	5	= 15
Samaden . . .	$2\frac{1}{2}$	= $7\frac{1}{2}$
		—
		$34\frac{1}{2}$

The carriage-road up the *Val Bregaglia* is now in good order. *Diligence* daily in  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The inns between *Chiavenna* and *Samaden* are not very good.

The road ascends by the rt. bank of the *Maira*, in face of a pretty cascade formed by the *Acqua Fraggia* descending from the N. About 8 m. above *Chiavenna* it passes, on the opposite side of the river, the grave of the village of *Pleurs* or *Piuro*, buried, with its 2430 Inhab., by the fall of *Monte Conto*, on the night of the 4th of Sept. 1618. It was a beautiful and thriving place, peopled by industrious Inhab., and contained numerous villas, the summer resort of the citizens of *Chiavenna*. It now lies beneath a heap of rocks and rubbish, 60 ft. deep, which fills up the valley. Every soul within it perished, and the long-continued excavations of all the labourers that could be collected failed in rescuing anything alive or dead from the ruins. All traces of the catastrophe are now nearly obliterated, and the spot is grown over with a wood of chestnuts. The inhabitants received many previous warnings, which were unfortunately despised. For ten years previous large crevices had existed on that side of the mountain; and heavy rains preceded the catastrophe. Masses of rock fell the day before, rents were formed in the mountain, and the shepherds had observed their cattle fly from the spot with marks of extreme terror.

The *Val Bregaglia* (Germ. *Bergell*)

is fertile and very picturesque: it is shut in by high mountains. Many of its inhabitants emigrate, and adopt the profession of chimney-sweepers, which they exercise in some of the large towns of the Continent.

After passing through Santa Croce and Villa (Pontella), the road quits the Italian territory and reaches the Swiss frontier at

3 m. *Castasegna* (*Inn*: Schumacher's Restaurant). Above this the white mulberry no longer flourishes, and this is therefore the limit of the culture of the silkworm. A little way within the frontier (rt.) is the *Castle of Bondo*, belonging to that branch of the Salis family (Soglio) which is settled in England. The ruined Castle of Castelmur on the l. bank of the Maira is conspicuous by reason of its tall donjon, 100 ft. high, from which two walls, 15 ft. high and 10 thick, descend into the gorge to the river side. The valley was formerly closed here by a gate, and the castle formed the key of the valley.

6 m. *Vico Soprano* (Vespran) (*Inn*: Krone), a German and Protestant village of 504 Inhab., on the l. bank of the Maira, 3380 ft. above the sea.

[The *Zocca* pass leads from Vico Soprano to the Baths of San Martino and to Morbegno in the Valteline in about 10 hrs. This route is not often traversed, but is very fine. It leaves the high road about half way to Casaccia, and follows the course of the Albigna, where there is a fine waterfall; it then traverses a glacier for a short distance, and then across patches of snow with very little track to the head of the pass. After a very steep descent, a solitary chalet is after some time reached, and then the village and baths of S. Martino in the Val Masino, a wild and striking valley, down which there is a good road to Morbegno. A guide is indispensable.]

5 m. *Casaccia* (*Inns* fair for the locality: Post; Agostino Zuan's tolerable), a village situated on the l. bank of the torrent, which after passing Chiavenna flows into the Lago Mezzola, at the S. side of the Septimer, and on the W. of the Maloja, over

both of which mountains the Romans conducted highways in the age of Augustus.

[The *Muretto Pass* leads to Sondrio in the Valteline, either from Casaccia, or from Maloja. The latter is the shorter by 1 hr., and is usually followed as far as Chiesa by those pedestrians who make the tour of Mt. Bernina. From Maloja (5941 ft.) to Pian Caning (6520 ft.) 1½ hr., following rt. bank of stream. Leave the Gl. del Forno on rt., and keep the track straight to the snow. This path is frequently used by peasants. In 1¾ hr. the top (8390 ft.) is reached. Now keep to l. and quit the snow when it becomes very steep. The view of the Disgrazia is very fine. When the path divides take the lower, and keep on l. bank of stream to Chiareggio in 2 hrs. from the top; only three inhabited houses here. If the owner is at home, food may be had at the one close to the ch. Thence to Chiesa in 3 hrs. (*Inn*: Osteria Antica). Hence to Sondrio, 7½ miles.] The Septimer and Furcula passes are described in Rte. 88.

Above Casaccia the *Maloja road* is zigzagged for 1 hour of ascent, up to (2½ m.) the *Summit of the Pass* (6060 ft.), a bleak and barren high table-land; but on the N. side the descent is so gradual as not to require the skill of an engineer. The scenery it presents is not so grand as that on most of the passes in the main range of the Alps; but the combination of the lofty and snow-clad summits of the Bernina, and the glaciers descending from them, with the lakes, close to the shore of which the road is carried, gives this pass an air of singular picturesqueness. *Maloggia* (*Inn*: Poste, the first large house in the Engadine). (Mal-Alloggio is said to be the origin of the name.) View from the rock opposite the inn, over Val Bregaglia, &c. A little way further the road falls in with the infant *Inn* (in Romansch Oen or Ent), here a mere torrent, which hastens to pour itself into the *lake of Sils*, a picturesque mountain basin, 3½ m. long, extending as far as Sils. This lake (in Romansch Leg de

Seglio) is fed by the much smaller lake of Lugni, 2 m. higher up in the flank of Monte Lunghino, the true source of the Inn.

*Sils*, the highest village of the Engadine. (*Inns*: H. Entre-lac; Alpenrose, in Sils-Maria.) The most conspicuous building here is the villa of a chocolate manufacturer, named Josti, a native of Davos, who, having quitted Switzerland a beggar, made a large fortune in one of the capitals of N. Germany, a part of which he expended on this huge and unprofitable structure.

[Hence a pass leads over the Fex Glacier to Chiesa in the Valteline: the foot of the glacier is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Sils. Char-road to Curtins (3 m.), whence a pass leads l. between the Capütschin and the Corvatz to the Rosegg Glacier, and thence to Pontresina.]

The lake of Sils is succeeded by two other small lakes, of Silva Plana, and of Campfeer, through both of which the Inn passes. At

*Silva Plana* (*Inn*: Kreutz) the Julier road enters the Engadine.

The road from thence to *Samaden* is described in Rte. 92.

Diligences ply in summer.

pair from Samâden to Innsbruck costs 240 frs., and 5 frs. a day to driver. Time required 3 days, stopping 1st at Schuols, 2nd at Landeck.

*The Engadine* (Engiadina), or Valley of the Upper Inn, is nearly 60 miles long, and is one of the highest inhabited valleys among the Alps, varying between an elevation of 5600 ft. above the sea, at Sils, the highest village, and 3234 ft. at Martinsbruck, the lowest. There is no other valley among the Alps where so many and such large and populous villages are to be found at so great an elevation. It has at least 20 tributary valleys. Owing to its elevation, and the icy barrier of enormous glaciers which separates it from Italy on the S., it possesses a most ungenial, nay, severe climate. In the language of its inhabitants it has 9 months of winter and 3 of cold weather. In May 1799 the French artillery crossed the lakes on the ice. The only grain grown in it is rye and barley, a stunted crop; and, in the upper portion, potatoes rarely come to maturity; yet it is one of the most opulent valleys among the Alps; but the source of its wealth must be sought for in another theatre than the valley itself. Its inhabitants are, indeed, but little addicted to agriculture. The surface, where not actually bare rock, is either covered with forests or converted to pasture, with the exception of small patches on the lower grounds, set apart for the plough or spade. Owing to the want of hands the natives intrust the gathering of the hay-harvest to Tyrolese and Swiss haymakers, who repair hither at the season when their labour is required. The sons of the valley, for the most part, emigrate at an early age, scatter themselves over all parts of the Continent, and may be found in most of the great capitals exercising the professions of pastrycooks, confectioners, distillers of liqueurs, clerks in warehouses, keepers of cafés, and sellers of chocolate. Many of them, in the exercise of their calling, acquire considerable wealth, and become millionnaires in florins, with which they

## ROUTE 95.

THE ENGADINE; SAMADEN TO NAUDERS,  
AND THE PASS OF FINSTERMÜNZ.

16 $\frac{3}{4}$  stunden = 50 miles.

Samâden.		Stunden.	Eng. m.
Scanfs	} good carriage- road.	3	9
Zernetz		2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Schuols		6	18
Nauders		5 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$

*Diligence* from Samâden to Nauders. Good carriage-road along l. bank of Inn to Martinsbruck. N.B. Read before you start the account of road between Martinsbruck and Nauders, at end of this route. A carriage and

retire to end their days by the side of the stream of their native valley. They display their wealth especially in the architecture of their houses, which are distinguished by their large dimensions, by their decorations of whitewash and fresh paint. One reason for their large size is that they comprise, under one roof, barn, stable, and cowshed. Owing to the severity of the climate, the cattle must be kept indoors during the 7 or 8 months of winter. "But the unvarying features are their magnitude and solidity, the brilliancy of their whitewash, and their little windows, frequently only a single pane, imbedded  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot in the massive stone wall, and better adapted to exclude the cold than to admit the light."—(J. F.) Poverty is rare, beggary almost unknown; and the people, who are, except at the village of Tarasp, Protestants, are creditably distinguished for their morality. Their pastors are held in great respect, but their pay is miserable. The sabbath is strictly observed; strangers only are allowed on that day to ride or drive, and that not until after church-time.

Since 1852, when the influx of travellers began greatly to increase, great improvements have taken place in the accommodation for travellers, and many new Inns have been built in the Upper Engadine, especially at St. Moritz, Samâden, Pontresina. In the Lower Engadine, except at Tarasp, the Inns are inferior, and the traveller must sometimes content himself with hard rye-bread, baked only once a quarter, eggs, cheese, and perhaps coffee. The universal language is the *Romansch* (see Rte. 66); but among the returned emigrants, in almost every village, may be found individuals speaking French, Italian, or even English, so that it is seldom that the stranger will not find an interpreter. The wine of the Valteline may be had good and cheap. The valley contains 10,600 Inhab.

Most of the higher Alpine pastures of the Engadine are let out every summer to Bergamasque shepherds, from the valleys Seriana and Brembana, on

the Italian side of the Alps—a wild, rough set of men, but hardy and honest, clad in homespun brown and white blankets, and feeding frugally on polenta of maize-meal, and a little cheese. They arrive about the beginning of July, with their flocks lean and meagre, after their long march, performed generally in the cool of the night. After a solitary sojourn of nearly 12 months, spending often the night as well as day in the open air among their flocks, they return home with fattened kine and long fleeces, which are sold to the wool manufacturers of Bergamo.

The upper extremity of the Engadine valley, from the pass of the Maloja to St. Moritz, has been described in Rtes. 92, 94. St. Moritz is comfortable head-quarters for visiting the glaciers of the Bernina, and ascending the Piz Languard; but Pontresina is nearer, and, as it now affords good accommodation, it will be generally preferred (see Rte. 96). Le Prese, 3 m. below Puschiamo, is becoming a favourite resting-place. (Rte. 98.)

Leaving Samâden by the high road, the first village is *Bever*, and the next is,

4½ m. *Ponte* (Inns: Albula; Krone), where the path from the Albula (Rte. 93) falls into the valley.

The possession of the bridge over the Inn which gives its name to this village was desperately disputed by the French and Austrians on the 9th March, 1799. They fought for 6 hrs. in the snow, which in some places was 5 ft. deep. Further on is

*Madulein*, and over the latter village towers the ruined Castle of *Gardaval*, built 1251 by Bp. Folkard of Coire, to guard his estates. The story of its capture by Adam of Camogash is a myth.

*Zutz*, or *Zuoz* (Inns: Schweizerbund, good beds; Kreutz), is a village of 550 Inhab. An old tower still remains of the *Stammhaus*, or original castle of the family of Planta, who, as far back as 1139, held the Engadine in feof. The climate here first becomes a little milder, Zutz being sheltered



from the cold blasts descending from the Maloja.

*Scanfs* (*Inn*: Traube) is one of the finest and most populous villages in the valley. Pop. 500. Here the characteristic features of the habitations begin gradually to disappear. The villages below this scarcely differ in aspect from those of Tyrol.

[There is a char-road to the l. from near the ruined Tower of Capella, about a mile below Scanfs, to Sulsanna; and thence to Davos, over the *Scaletta* bridle-pass, 7820 ft.; a distance of about 8 hrs. The top of the pass is marked by a hut capable of affording shelter. Dürrenboden is 1 hr. beyond the top. There is a good char-road thence to Davos. The Schwartzhorn well deserves ascent. It is 3 hrs. climb, and N.E., from Dürrenboden. The views extend to a great distance.]

[From Zutz, or Scanfs, Bormio may be reached in 11 or 12 hrs. The path mounts from the latter village nearly due E. into the *Val Cassana*, and crosses the ridge at the head of that valley to *Livigno* (about 6 hrs. from Scanfs), the principal village in the *Val Livigno*. Hither the Duc de Rohan, the Huguenot leader, marched, 1635, to pounce down upon the Austrians in the *Valtelline*. From hence an easy pass leads in 5 hrs., by the valley of *Pedenos*, to Bormio. For the *Fluela* pass to Davos see Rte. 100.]

Cinuschkel is the last village of Ober-Engadine. The *Inn* flows through a narrow gorge, and near Brail the road crosses a lofty stone bridge (*Punt Aut*—*Ponte Alto*) over a deep ravine, marking the division between Upper and Lower Engadine. The country is poor, and not very interesting, while the road is much more hilly.

*Zernets* (*Inns*: Poste; Lion d'Or; Löwe, kept by the bear-hunter and guide Fili) is a considerable village, with a handsome ch. and two feudal towers, one of which anciently belonged to a branch of the Planta family, and is called Wildenberg. [Up the opposite valley of Forno runs a path into the Münster Thal, by the *Buffalora Pass*—“7 hours’ walking. It is a tolerable

char-road. After a gradual ascent from Zernetz it descends into a desolate valley, where is a wretched inn, *Al Fuorn* (2 hrs.), the only house between the two places. The top of the pass is reached in 2½ hrs. from this, and a fine view is obtained of the Münster Thal, which is reached at Tschierf (1½ hr.): 2 hrs. more bring you to *Santa Maria*.” By keeping to the S. or rt. hand branch of the stream in ascending from Zernetz, the *Val Livigno* is entered. From Livigno a pass of no difficulty leads in 5 hrs. to Bormio at the foot of the *Stelvio* pass. By keeping up the *Val Livigno* you can re-enter Switzerland, either by a pass to the S. which takes you into the Bernina, or E. into the *Val di Fain* near Pontresina.]

About 5 m. farther is

*Süss*, a small village with a rough, but clean, little *Inn*, Krone. There is a path over the Vereina Pass to Klosters in the Prättigau (Rte. 98).

[Behind (N. of) Lavin (*Inn*: Post) rises the *Piz Linard*, 10,510 ft., whose summit has been scaled (in 7½ hrs.) only 4 or 5 times. It is said to command a marvellous view over more than fifty peaks, exceeding 8000 ft. in height. Good guide required. The way is by *Saglialutz*, *Platta Mala*, and the cleft called “*Chamin*” which is ascended like a chimney, by aid of knees and elbows.]

The names *Lavin*, *Zutz*, and *Ardetz*, 3 villages in this part of the Engadine, are said to be a Romansch corruption of the Latin *Lavinium*, *Tutium*, and *Ardea*.

The villages are often perched on the top of steep heights, as in the case of Guarda. The new road keeps to the foot of the hills, near the *Inn*, here running in a deep chasm.

[A little below Ardetz, near which rises the Castle *Steinsberg*, visitors bound to the village of Tarasp must cross the *Inn*. This is the only German and Roman Cath. village in the Engadine: it is 3976 ft. above the sea-level. The ruined Castle on the hill above belonged to one of the Plantas. 2 m. lower down, on the same side (rt. bank) of the *Inn*, is *Vulpera*, whose

powerful drastic mineral springs have caused *Inns* and *Pensions* to be built. Pension Zanolì; Karl; Arquint.

The carriage-road descends in zig-zags to

12 m. *Tarasp* (*Bath-house and Hotel*, between the post-road and the river, one of the handsomest establishments in Switzerland, built by a company, cost 60,000l.; 200 rooms, 300 beds, 70 bath-cabinets supplied with the waters). It lies in a well, as it were. It is connected by a bridge with the *Mineral Springs*—2 saline-sulphureous, resembling those of Kissingen and Vichy; 2 chalybeate, nearly identical with those of St. Moritz. *Resident physician*. Carriages and horses for hire. The *Kreutzberg* is a wonderful point of view.

2 m. *Schuols* or *Schulz* (*Inns*: Hôtel Belvedere, in Lower *Schuols*; Post, in Ober-*Schuols*; Helvetia), the most populous place in the valley, contains 950 Inhab., and is grandly situated, with fine views, over the gorge of the Inn, of the mountains beyond. There is much corn-land near this. Avalanches sometimes fall from the hill of Balluns behind.

The neighbourhood of *Schuols* and *Tarasp* is distinguished for the number and potency of its mineral waters, rising on a line of fault between the gneiss and mica-slate for a distance of 3 m. Not far from them, in places, *Mofettas*, or jets of carbonic acid gas, arise, destructive to insects, mice, or birds that approach them. Below the old ch., 2 bridges over the Inn and the *Clemgia* conduct to *Tarasp* vill. 3 m.

From *Tarasp* the *Münster Thal* may be reached by the *Scarl Thal*. It is about as far as by the *Buffalora Pass*. At *Tschierf* there is a wretched *Inn*; 2 hrs. above it is *Sta. Maria*.]

5 m. *Remus*. Near this a bridge of wood, *Ponte Piedra*, crosses the gorge of *Wraunka Tobel*. Above it is the ruined castle *Chiamuff*, burnt by the Austrians in 1475.

The scenery of the valley of the Inn is grand on approaching

6½ m. *Martinsbrück* (*Pomartino*) (*Inn*: Post, Lowe), the last place in the Engadine. [A footpath follows the l. nk of the river into the grand gorge

of *Finstermünz*.] Here the road leaves the Inn and takes a circuit. It is little better than a watercourse, and so excessively steep that heavy carriages must be drawn up by two yoke of oxen, and 1½ hr. is required to perform the stage. Travellers should write or telegraph on to *Martinsbrück* to have oxen in readiness and save time. You ascend a wooded eminence, the boundary between Switzerland and Tyrol, and enter the *Austrian Frontier* a short while before

3½ m. *Nauders* (*Inn*: Post, tolerable), 1 m. from the defile of *Finstermünz*. (See *Handbook for South Germany*.)

## ROUTE 96.

PASS OF THE BERNINA, FROM SAMADEN IN THE ENGADINE, BY PONTRESINA, TO TIRANO IN THE VALTELINE.

13½ stunden = 40 miles.

	Stunden.	Eng. m.
Samáden.		
Pontresina . . . . .	1½	4½
Bernina Inns . . . . .	2	6
Puschlavo . . . . .	6½	19½
Tirano . . . . .	3½	10

A carriage-road, in part very well constructed, has been completed. Diligence daily from *Samaden* to *Puschlavo* in 7½ hrs., to *Tirano* in 10 hrs. On foot the distance may be shortened some 5 miles. This pass offers several magnificent views.

Between *Samaden* and *Puschlavo* very good accommodation is to be found at *Pontresina* where also resides one of the few good guides for the Engadine, *Colani*, a miller and a good shot.

The *Bernina Alps* are a very lofty and grand chain of mountains, separating the valleys of the Engadine and of *Bregaglia* on the N., from the *Valtellina* on the S. The highest, called *Piz Bernina*, and also, though incorrectly, *Piz Mortiratsch*, is 13,297 ft. in height. 5 or 6 other peaks exceed 12,000 Eng. ft. These form, after the great chain of the *Pennine Alps*, the *Dauphiné*, and the *Bernese Alps*, the loftiest range in Europe. Their glaciers have been very imperfectly

explored. Several arduous passes cross the chain.

From *Samaden* (Rte. 92) the road turns S., ascending the Val Pontresina, by the rt. bank of the torrent Flatz. [There is a footpath from St. Moritz to Pontresina, which crosses the Inn between the lake and the waterfall, and leads by a pool and through a wood over the shoulder of the low spur between the Inn and the Flatz.] There are fir forests in this valley 7000 feet above the sea-level, mostly consisting of the *Pinus cembra*.

*Pontresina* (*Inns*: Krone, good, very fair living, noisy at night; Weisses Krentz, also good and reasonable; H. Zum Gletscher,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the village, very clean)—a considerable village; fast becoming to the Bernina what Zermatt is to Mte. Rosa; seated at the foot of a snow-capped mountain, at the junction of two glacier-headed valleys, 5566 ft. above the sea-level. It is 4 m. from the valley of the Inn. *Chairs* and *guides* may be procured here at a *bureau* established in the village. There is now a regular tariff for all the excursions, upwards of fifty in number. Jenni is a first-rate guide; so is Enderlin, host of the Krentz. There is an excellent view of the Rosegg Glacier and peaks from the meadow adjoining the ch. at the back of the village. Saraz's collection of stuffed animals is exceedingly interesting. From this place, from St. Moritz, or from Le Prese, *Excursions* may be made to many objects of interest. The most attractive excursion from Pontresina is

a. The ascent of the *Piz Languard*.

The summit, 10,724 ft. above the sea, is more easily reached than most points of at all equal height, and the panorama one of the finest in the entire chain of the Alps. It not only includes the whole of Eastern Switzerland and part of the Tyrol, but in very clear weather is said to extend to Monte Rosa and Mont Blanc. Horses may be taken 2-3rds of the way to the summit (charge 7 fr. and trinkgeld for the boy who remains to take care of them. A guide (charge 7 fr.) is

necessary, except for thoroughly-practised mountaineers; he will carry provisions and some extra covering to wear while resting at the top. The ascent requires 3 hrs.; the descent may be made in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. or less. A panoramic view, from a point a little below the summit, has been executed by the Leipzig painter Georgi, who had a hut constructed for the purpose. Mountaineers may vary the descent by crossing the Fuorkla Glacier (to the S.E.), and over La Pischa into the Val de Fain (d), and so to Pontresina in 6 hrs.

b. The *Rosegg* or *Rosetsch Glacier* is reached through the *Rosetsch Thal* or *Val Rosana*. There is a rough char-road nearly to the foot of the glacier,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Pontresina. The glacier itself is very easy to walk upon, and ladies may with safety spend an agreeable day in exploring its beauties. A longer and more fatiguing excursion for active pedestrians may be made to a green alp called "Agagliouls" (middle point), which is on the summit of the mass of rock separating the two glacier streams. A guide is necessary. A circle of snowy peaks, not visible from elsewhere at the same time, surrounds this Alp; the Tschierva, Mortiratsch, Bernina, Rosegg, Sella, Capütschin, and Piz Corvatsch. [The Fuorkla Pass, said to be not very difficult, turns off to the rt. about 20 min. before reaching the glacier from Pontresina, and leads thence in 6 hrs. to Silva Plana. The col is just above a large black rock, which is visible from Silva Plana in a S.E. direction, and is an excellent landmark to travellers from that side. This pass is to be recommended for its view of the Bernina range.]

c. The *Mortiratsch Glacier* (see below) is the largest in the Bernina chain. The carriage-road passes within 1 m. of its foot. An active pedestrian may combine a visit to this glacier with the Pass of the Bernina, reaching Puschio in the evening.

d. The *Val de Fain*, on the S. side of the Piz Languard. The scenery is very fine, and many rare plants are found

FROM PIZ LANGUARD.

there. The la Stretta pass leads from thence into the Val Livigno, and so to Zernetz or to Bormio (see Rte. 95). By another pass to the N. it is possible to reach Ponte, and, returning to Samaden or Pontresina, complete the tour of the Piz Languard in 1 day.

*e. The Diavolezza*, ascending the Mortiratsch Glacier (or the rocks at the side of it, and then taking the ice) as far as Boval, and the junction of the Vadret Pers, where there is a curious island of rock jutting out of the ice—"the Jardin" of this district—called *Isola Pers*, commanding a magnificent view. Mountaineers may cross the Pers glacier towards the foot of Mont Pers, and, ascending along a wearisome slope of débris, succeeded by a rough bit of rockwork, reach the Col of the *Diavolezza*, between that peak and Mont Pers.

*View magnificent.* Descend by a steep bit of glacier to a remarkable hollow containing a lovely blue lake, into which huge masses of ice precipitate themselves from the glaciers of Mont Pers, 800 ft. above. Then bear down to L., and descend to Bernina Inns. A most striking excursion: may be taken the reverse way—starting from Bernina Inns.

In ascending by the high road to the Bernina Pass the great glacier of Mortiratsch is passed almost close to the road, about an hour above Pontresina. It fills to its mouth the lateral valley in which it lies; seeming to be kept in by a fir-clad ridge of rock, which, with the exception of a slight cleft in the middle, completely closes the entrance of the valley. Being squeezed, as it were, upwards, in consequence of the opposition to its longitudinal expansion offered by this obstruction, it rises to a good height above its fringe of trees. This glacier is of the largest size, and has an immense central moraine. Its head is encircled by a number of snowy peaks, among them the Piz Mortiratsch and the Palu.

The glacier may most easily be reached from its eastern side, whence, after a certain distance, there is no

difficulty in descending on to the ice and crossing to the opposite side.

*Road over the Bernina Pass.*

20 min. walk above the highest houses of Pontresina, near a saw-mill, is a fine waterfall formed by the stream from the Languard.

In 2 zigzags the road surmounts a projecting rock of granite. [Just below this the old road, diverging rt., leads by a bridge over the Bernina stream to the Mortiratsch Glacier (see above).]

By the high road the great glacier of Mortiratsch is passed close on the rt., 1 hr. above Pontresina. It fills to its mouth the lateral valley in which it lies; being restrained by a fir-clad ridge, which, with the exception of a cleft in the middle, closes the valley. It rises to a height above its fringe of trees. This glacier is of the largest size, and has an immense central moraine. It may most easily be reached from its eastern side, whence, after a little, there is no difficulty in descending on to the ice and crossing to the opposite side. Rt. of the road, Falls of the Bernina.

6 m. *Bernina Inns*—3 cabarets in a desolate place, 1½ hr. below the summit, at the mouth of l. the Val de Fain. Halt of mules.

[*To the Baths of Bormio.* Foot-path. Turn to l. just past the Bernina châteaux, cross the stream, follow path up Val del Fain to Col of La Stretta, 2¼ hrs. Path down, at first steep and fairly marked; cross to rt. bank by first bridge after the junction of two streams; recross about 1 hr. before Livigno, 2¾ hrs. (*Inn*: Battista Bormellini's house, nearly through the village, on l. side, No. 8, the only place where anything to eat can be had during the day.) From Livigno to Trepalle over a steep hill, the top marked by a crucifix, 1 hr. 5 min. The curé, who lives in the Casa Parrocchiale, close to the church, is exceedingly obliging—wine and liqueur to be had there. From Trepalle to top of Foscagno 1 hr. 10 min.—N.B. Go 100 yards to rt. of path on summit in order to have a clear view down

Val Semogo; regain the path without retracing your steps. From top always take the lower road, keeping as near the river as possible on the l. bank. At Isolaccia cross to the rt. bank; recross by the next bridge. Just before entering Premaglio turn to the l., and do not cross the torrent that comes down from the Stelvio till a little past the Forge. From top of Foscagno to baths of Bormio, 3 hrs.]

3½ m. *The Summit* (new Inn, 1867), 7695 ft. above the sea-level, lies between 2 small lakes, the *Black* (Leg Nair), which discharges into the Inn, and the *White*, fed by glaciers, which runs into the Adda. Near the *Lago Bianco* the new road turns off to the l., and, crossing the neighbouring ridge of the Camin, passes down by

5½ m. *La Rusa* (a poor mountain Inn), and

3 m. *Pisciadella*, into the beautiful valley of *Puschiavo*.

[To Bormio by the Val Viola pass, 6 hrs. Leave the high road l. below *La Rusa* (if ascending, below *Pisciadella*), and ascend the *Valle di Campo*, which leads to the *Val Viola*, a continuation of it at a higher level. Before reaching *Val Viola* the path branches (l. up the *Val Agone* to *Livigno*): our route is straight on, and leads over the l. of the head of *Val Viola*. Descending N., the path is well traced, and meets the char-road at *Isolaccia*, 6 m from *Bormio*.]

[The old path is continued along the rt. (W.) margin of the lakes, passing close to them for about 3 m., with the *Cambrera* glacier descending close upon it from the *Bernina*. The stream which issues from the lakes falls too precipitously into the valley to be followed by the track, and accordingly the path takes a sweep to the rt., turning a shoulder of the mountain, and thus accomplishing the 1st stage of the descent at a small hamlet called *Cavaglia*, with a miserable auberge. Bears are not at all uncommon here. At this part of the road you obtain a magnificent view over the glacier of *Palu*, one of the most beautifully named glaciers which can be seen in Switzerland. These glaciers give an

interest to this path far superior to that by *La Rusa*. Hence the stream makes another rapid descent to the level of *Puschiavo*, of which, and of the beautiful lake beyond, a fine prospect is opened during the 2nd descent. The track lies over ledges of rock, and down narrow watercourses. The main road, which is excellent, is entered a short distance above *Puschiavo*.

This route, however, is so full of obstructions and difficulties, that horsemen generally prefer the circuit by *Pisciadella*, though it adds 5 m. to the journey.]

5½ m. *Puschiavo* (*Inns*: *Croix Fédérale*, or *Croce Bianca*, good and reasonable, a curious old house; *H. Albricci*), a town of 3000 Inhab., built in the Italian fashion, the principal place in the valley, is mainly supported by the considerable traffic of goods through it. *Rom. Cath. Ch.*, date 1494. Above it, on a height, stand the ruins of the castle of *Oligati*.

Nearly one-third of the inhabitants of this populous valley are Protestants; but owing to the jealousy of the Roman Catholics, their church is almost a fortress, and capable of defence against attacks. The language spoken by them is a corrupt Italian.

About 3 m. lower down, the road, which is here excellent, skirts the W. margin of the charming little lake of *Puschiavo*, famed for its large trout.

*Le Présé*, beautifully situated near the N. end of the lake, is frequented for its charming situation, its sunny climate, and sulphureous waters. The *Bathing establishment* is well managed and reasonable (Pension 6 fr.). The baths, lined with marble, are well kept, and many Lombard visitors resort to this place.

6½ m. *Brusio* is the last Swiss village. On quitting the lake, the torrent *Puschiavo* passes through a very narrow defile, barely allowing room for the road and the stream. It is a raging torrent, and, as it approaches the *Adda*, requires to be restrained within stone dykes of solid masonry, which have nevertheless proved insufficient to protect its banks from inun-



dation. Beyond this, the Valteline, or Vale of the Adda, opens out at

3 m. *Madonna di Tirano* (Inn, zur *Madonna*, good). See *Handbook for South Germany*.

An active pedestrian taking the short cut by Cavaglia may reach Pontresina from hence in 10 hrs.—3 hrs. to Puschiamo, 4 hrs. to summit of pass, 3 hrs. to Pontresina.

[The circuit of the Bernina range may be made from Puschiamo or Le Prese, by crossing the Canciano pass to Chiesa in Italy, and thence by the Muretto pass to Malloja. The Canciano commences 1 m. from Le Prese, opposite a stone bridge, which crosses the stream by which the road from Puschiamo runs. It ascends the hill rapidly, and, after passing some scattered cottages, goes below a waterfall, L. About this point the traveller can detect the gap in the ridge which marks the summit of the pass. The path soon crosses the stream close to a chalet and barn, and little trace of it remains. It bears, however, towards the rocks upon the rt., and, after crossing the summit, continues on the rt. of the stream below. The descent beyond is rough, and partly in very steep zigzags somewhat resembling the Gemmi. At the foot of it lies Lanzada, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. further Chiesa (H. Osteria Antica, poor enough). The time required is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 hrs. No sort of refreshment can be procured on the way. From Chiesa to the Engadine by the Muretto pass, Rte. 94; Pontresina to Puschiamo, Rte. 96.]

## ROUTE 98.

THE PRÄTTIGAU—COIRE OR RAGATZ TO  
SÜSS IN THE ENGADINE.

	Stunden.	Eng. m.
Coire, Landquart Stat.		
Küblis . . . . .	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	15
Klosters . . . . .	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Süß . . . . .	8	24

This route lies through an unfrequented but not uninteresting district. A few days may be well spent

in exploring the mountains at the head of the Prättigau. The ascent begins either from the Zizers Stat. or from Maláns, near the Landquart Stat., on the Coire Rly. *Diligence* from the stat. by good carriage-road up the valley as far as Klosters, and thence into the Davos Thal, in  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to Davos-Platz. The pedestrian will prefer to start from

*Maláns*, a village of 1054 Inhab., overlooked by several ruined castles, the chief of which is *Schloss Bodmer*, one of the numerous castles belonging to the De Salis family, and situated near the mouth of the *Prättigau* (Rom. Val Parténz). The entrance of that valley is through the narrow gorge or defile of *Klus*, giving passage to the waters of the *Landquart*, a furious torrent which traverses the valley. This pass was once commanded by the castle *Fragstein*, whose ruins are still visible; a wall, extending down to the Landquart, once closed the passage into the valley. The valley, 20 m. long, abounds in fine scenery, is shut in by high mountains and glaciers, is nowhere of any expanse, but rich in pasture-land, and famed for its large breed of cattle. It contains a population of about 10,000, who all speak German, though Romansch was the language down the 16th cent., and the names of places are still all Romansch. The rt. or N. side of the valley is occupied by the Alpine chain of the *Rhätikon*, which separates it from the Vorarlberg and from the vale of Montafun. Its most remarkable summits are the *Fulkniss*, overlooking the Rhine, the *Scesa Plana* (9207 ft.), the highest on the N. side of the valley. The *Piz Linard* (11,420 ft.) and other mountains unite this chain with that to the N. of the Inn, which forms the division or watershed between the North Sea and the Euxine, as the Bernina chain on the S. separates the waters flowing to the Euxine from those flowing to the Adriatic. Several passes lead N. from the Prättigau into the Vorarlberg.

[The ascent of the *Scesa Plana* (7136 ft.), the highest peak in the

Rhætikon chain, may be made, but only with a guide, from

*Scewis* (Hotel and Pension *Scessa Plana*), situated high above the vale of the Landquart to the N.]

The road ascends on the rt. bank of the Landquart to *Schiers* (*Krone Inn*), and then crosses to the l. bank of the torrent, passing

*Jenatz* (*Heims' Inn*).  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. further is \**Niggli's Inn*, at *Fideriser Au*. The village of *Fideris* stands on a height 2 m. off the road, and is not visible from it.

A very bad road leads to the *Baths of Fideris*, 2 m. S. of the village, in a wild and romantic gorge, not unlike that of *Pfäfers*. The baths, considered efficacious in chest complaints and intermittent fevers, are supplied by several alkaline springs, the strongest of their class in Switzerland, and strongly resembling Seltzerwater. The visitors, almost exclusively Swiss, are received in two *Bath-houses*, capable of lodging more than 200 persons.

The accommodation at the Baths is quite second-rate, although the baths are often crowded to excess, and the landlord has made a fortune by them; however, the table-d'hôte is well supplied.

On the rt. bank of the Landquart, opposite *Fideris*, rises the ruined castle of *Castels*, which was stormed and taken, in 1622, by the peasants, armed with sticks alone, from the soldiers of the Emperor Ferdinand, who at that period wanted to make himself master of the passes of the Grisons, to extinguish the Protestant religion in this country, and to seize and banish its ministers. A path leads S. in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., over the mountains, into the *Schalfikthal*.

The carriage-road up the rt. bank of the Landquart traverses a romantic defile, wooded and rocky, and through that picturesque village of old houses.

*Käblis*. Instead of following the old road, it is pleasanter, though not shorter, to take a path near the village of *Serneus*, passing the *Baths of Serneus* (*Inn*), frequented by natives. Very fair accommodation may be had there. About 1 league farther is

*Klosters* (*Inn: Hirsch*), a scattered village chiefly of new houses, named after a suppressed Convent, on the rt. bank of the Landquart, 3700 ft. above the sea. The ch. and the *Hirsch* are at *Am Platz*. The valley to the E. is closed by the *Selvretta* glacier.

Hence there are 2 ways:—a. the direct pass over the *Vercina*, 8 hrs. good walking; guide required. b. by the *Flüela* pass.

A char may be hired for 5 frs. to *Davos Plaz*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. drive,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. walk. It turns nearly S., and after a long ascent, mounting in zigzags, passing rt. a small lake, crosses the summit, and, descending, passes l. a larger lake. At *Dörfli* the valley and pass of the *Flüela* (Rte. 100) is reached.

*Davos Plaz*, in Rte. 99.

## ROUTE 99.

### COIRE TO DAVOS-PLAZ AND KLOSTERS— PASS OF THE STRELA.

"The *Schalfig Thal* (before the mouth of which Coire is built, on the banks of the *Plessûr*, which issues from it) leads up to this pass. The path runs along the heights on the rt. of the river; and after a continuous ascent of nearly an hour from Coire, reaches *Maladers*, the first village of the valley. The Col of the *Strela* is visible from this point, but 7 hrs. more will be required to surmount it. The *Schalfig Thal* is a very extraordinary valley. There are no villages in its bed: all are on the mountains, at a vast elevation above the *Plessûr*, and having apparently no communication with one another. From *Maladers* to *Langwiesen*, a distance of nearly 5 leagues, the path can scarcely ever be less than 1000 feet above the river. It passes, on its way, through several villages, occupying tracts of ground on the tops of spurs or promontories projecting from the northern mountains, and divided from one another by lateral ravines, which have to be dipped into and doubled round. To the S. of the river, and also on the

W., where the Julier road runs, the character of the country is of a similar kind. One of the finest views of the Schalfig Thal is from Calfreisen, a village with an ancient tower crowned with trees. The snowy mountains of the Kalfseuser Thal are seen through the opening of the valley.

"The houses in the Schalfig Thal are well built. At St. Peter's and Langwiesen, the parsonages are marked by inscriptions, and the school-house at Peist has, besides, a few verses on its front.

"Langwiesen is reached in 5½ hours from Coire; in 2¼ more the col is gained, the last half-hour being stiff work in zigzags. The height of the pass is nearly 7700 ft. From it the whole course of the Schalfig Thal, the Galanda, the Alps of the Kalfseuser Thal, may be seen. The view in the other direction is best seen after a short descent, and comprises all the summits of the chain towards the Engadine, from the valley of the Albula to the Tyrolese frontier, including Piz Linard (11,420 ft.), over the central line of peaks from the side of the Engadin.

"A steep descent of an hour from the Strela brings one to"

Plaz, or Davôs (Rom. Tavoise, behind), Inns: H. zur Strela, on the hill, very fair (whey cure); the Rathhaus, now a primitive inn, was formerly decorated with more than 30 wolves' heads slain in the neighbourhood—proof of the prevalence of these animals. A wolf-net (wolf-garne) is still hung up here, but the animals have nearly disappeared.

The Davos-thal, below Plaz, retains its pastoral character as far as Glaris. Farther down it is much contracted, and at Schmelzboden were formerly zinc, lead, and silver works.

Davôs is a central point, towards which many paths converge. Descending the valley, Frauenkirche, the Badhaus of Spina, and the village of Glaris, are successively passed; and the road of the Albula (Rte. 9) may be reached at Alveneu in less than 5 hrs. by a char-road, but a very bad one, more fit for mules. At Alveneu

begins the good carriage-road over the Albula. Pedestrians bound for the Albula Pass should avoid Alveneu, and inquire for a path leading direct to Filisur. The Engadine may be reached by the Fluela Pass (Rte. 100), or by the more laborious pass of the Scaletta, to Scans (Rte. 95) in 10 hrs.

The way to Klosters is over a very low and easy pass, traversed by a good char-road. The distance is about 10 m., and the chars (price 4 fr.) take 2½ hrs. The chalets at the summit are called *St. Wolfgang*. In ascending, the road passes a small lake called the Davôs See; on the other side another, still smaller, is called the Schwarze See.

Davos am Platz to Ragatz is a drive of 6 hrs. Dil. daily at 10 a.m. through Küblis (where it stops 2 hrs. for dinner) to Landquart, a station between Chur and Ragatz. It arrives in time for the last train to Zürich.

## ROUTE 100.

PLAZ TO SÜSS, BY THE FLUELA PASS.

A carriage-road is to be made over the Fluela.

The valley leading up to this pass is entered at Dörfli, about a mile above Plaz, in the Davos Thal. The path runs on the rt. bank of its stream nearly the whole way, crossing to the other side only for a very short time, when about half the length of the valley has been traversed. The ascent is easy throughout, and the path distinctly marked. There is little remarkable in the scenery, which is of a wild and dreary nature. There is a rude Inn, called Tschuggen, about 2 hrs. from Plaz, and just half way to the summit. The summit of the Fluela (7900 ft.) is a small plain occupied by two pools, and within 4 hrs. walk from Davos. [The Schwarzhorn, which separates this pass from the Scaletta (Rte. 95), well deserves ascent from here.]

After a gradual descent for a time

towards the S., a wild barren valley is overlooked, running down from W. to E. The path, crossing the river and turning to the l., is conducted along the mountain side above this valley, into which it descends by degrees. It then follows the l. bank of the stream for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m., only crossing to the rt. a little distance above Süss, where it joins the road of the Engadine. Süss is a good  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours' walk from the top of the Flüela. (See Rte. 95.)

$6\frac{1}{2}$  or 7 hrs. are required to reach Süss from Davos. 4 hrs. from Süss will take the traveller to the Baths of Tarasp.

### ROUTE 101.

BLUDENZ, IN VORARLBERG, TO THE PRÄTTIGAU, BY THE PASS OF THE SCHWEIZERTHOR.

A very fine and interesting pass, especially suited to mountaineers as an agreeable alternative to the ordinary way round by road. Guides may be found at Brand.

About 9 or 10 hrs. walk.

Leaving Bludenz (*Inn*, Post, see *Handbook for South Germany*), and crossing the stream by a bridge, a shady road leads to the village of Bûrs, where there is a fine gorge worth visiting even by those not bound mountainwards. Bearing to the rt., the ascent commences at once by a zigzag road through a pretty forest, the village of Bûrsberg soon appearing on the rt. It is a constant ascent, commanding very fine views of the gorge of the Alvierbach and over Bludenz and the mountains of the Vorarlberg behind, and of the glaciers of the Scesa Plana before, all the way to

$2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. Brand (decent little *Inn*). A little above Brand the stream is crossed and some châteaux reached, beyond which the ascent is rougher, the path taking an abrupt turn to the l., and the valley blocked at the upper end by a vast wall of rock 1000 ft. high, extending straight across from the mass of the Scesa Plana to

the precipices of the Zimbaspitz. Path crosses stream several times until close to the foot of the wall, when it finally crosses to a steep slope of débris, fallen from the Scesa Plana on the rt., up which the ascent lies. From this point it is a very stiff, fatiguing climb of fully 1 hr. to the top of the rocky wall, on reaching which a curious sight presents itself. Occupying, as it were, a sort of crater, and enclosed on all sides by crags and precipices, a lake,

$1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the Lûner See, about 1 m. in extent, is discovered some 150 ft. below the path on the other side of the wall, the waters of which are carried off by 2 subterranean outlets through the rocky barrier which rises from 50 to 200 ft. above the level of the lake. Fine view to the N.

[From this point the Scesa Plana may be ascended in 4 hrs., view extremely grand, over Suabia, Rhine valley, Lakes of Zurich and Wallenstadt, Alps of Appenzell, Bernese Tyrol, to Ortler. Should this ascent be combined with the pass, it would be advisable to sleep at Brand the previous night.]

Path continues round the lake to the opposite side is reached; the ascent continues, keeping to the rt. until Col is reached, from which splendid view over all the Grison and Glarus Alps.

2 hrs. 6 full hrs. of constant ascent from Bludenz. Descent at first steep grass, then hopeless bog, until reaching châteaux in 1 hr. From this point the path is peculiar. Instead of following the course of the stream (down which, however, it is possible but not easy to force a way), it strikes to the rt., ascending and keeping close to the Scesa Plana, in order to avoid several torrents descending from that mountain. Path bad, boggy, and confusing but after a while the true descent is observed on the opposite side of the last torrent, which is reached in 1 hr. from the châteaux; crossing stream by a bridge, a very bad road (in course of improvement) conducts, in 1 hr., to

Seewis, in Prättigau (*Inn*, Scesa Plana), Rte. 98.—I. G. S.

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## SECTION II.

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## SECTION II.

# THE ALPS OF PIEDMONT AND SAVOY.

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### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION.

#### CONTENTS.

1. *Alps of Piedmont and of Savoy—Val d'Aosta—Monte Rosa—Zermatt—Valleys of the Waldenses.*—2. *Inns.*—3. *Roads, Mules, &c.*—4. *Guides.*—5. *Posting; Distances.*—6. *Frontiers and Custom-houses.*—7. *Malaria.*—8. *Wine; Bread.*—9. *Money.*—10. *Maps.*

§ 1. PIEDMONT has on its N. and W. sides a clearly-defined frontier in the ridge of the great chain of the Alps. From the valley of the Toccia, which lies within its frontier, to the Col du Bonhomme, near Mont Blanc, the Pennine Alps divide it from Switzerland; from the Col du Bonhomme to the pass of the Mont Cenis, the Graian Alps separate Piedmont from Savoy; from the Mont Cenis to the Col d'Argentière, at the head of the valley of the Stura, the Cottian Alps separate it from France; and from the Argentière to the sources of the Tanaro in the Monte dello Schiavo, the Maritime Alps divide Southern Piedmont from the French county of Nice. East of the Monte dello Schiavo the great Alpine chain passes insensibly into the Apennines.

The Southern or Maritime Alps, and the eastern boundary of Piedmont—the frontier of Lombardy, Piacenza, and Parma\*—are not within the object of this section, which is to furnish to travellers useful information for excursions in the Alps of Piedmont.

On the side of Italy the Alps offer a striking difference in their appearance from that presented in the approaches from Switzerland, Savoy, or France. From these the intervention of secondary ranges, and the long valleys, preclude any great extent of the chain from being seen at the same time; but from the plains of Piedmont, even from Turin—not 30 miles in a direct line from the nearest point in the crest of the chain—a range of the central peaks and passes, extending through 130 miles, is visible.

A day's journey is sufficient, from many parts of the crest of the Alps, for a descent into the plains of Piedmont; whilst on the other side of the chain two or three days of approach from the plains, in deep valleys amidst the mountains, are requisite for its attainment. The *Italian* Alpine valleys, with their umbrageous chestnuts, trellised vines, campaniles, mills, and fresco-painted oratories, on commanding knolls, are full of pictures, and differ entirely from the Swiss valleys, which are simpler and sterner in aspect.

Few travellers repair to Switzerland without the ulterior object of a visit to *Chamouni* and *Mont Blanc*; it is the crowning point of their journey, and deservedly so. Those who have time and strength should not rest satisfied with

\* See HANDBOOK FOR NORTH ITALY.

seeing Mont Blanc from Chamouni, but should make the tour of that mountain, remembering that his aspect from Cormayeur, on the S. side, is even grander than from the N. The traveller in Piedmont should especially direct his attention to the *Val d'Aosta* and the valleys around the bases of the *Monte Rosa* and *Mont Cervin*, which unfold some of the sublimest scenes in nature. The *Valleys of Zermatt* (Swiss) and of *Gressoney* and *Anzasca* especially are unrivalled for beauty and grandeur. Zermatt, which affords much better accommodation than any other spot in the immediate neighbourhood of Monte Rosa, has of late years become a formidable rival to Chamouni; and if it were equally easy of access, it may be doubted whether the general mass of tourists would not accord to it the same preference which is now given to it by most veteran pedestrian travellers. The glorious views, and the unrivalled and almost numberless excursions around, will well repay a sojourn of several days, and the Inns now afford sufficient accommodation. The valleys of Anzasca, Sesia, and Lys, at the S. side of Monte Rosa, are also remarkable as being inhabited, at their heads, by an interesting race of German origin and language. The *Lago d'Orta* is a lovely spot, and no one within reach of it should omit to visit that extraordinary as well as picturesque place Varallo and its Sacro Monte.

Interesting accounts of the Piedmontese valleys, especially those surrounding Monte Rosa, are given in *The Italian Valleys of the Pennine Alps*, by the Rev. S. W. King, and *A Lady's Tour Round Monte Rosa*.

The Piedmontese and Subalpine valleys furnish a large emigration, and supply all Europe with workmen in particular trades. In the Engadine are pastrycooks; near Como, thermometer and barometer makers; near Orta, plasterers; Biella, masons and builders; Canavese, carpenters; Val Sesia, masons; Val Blegno, chocolate makers and chestnut roasters; Val Calanka, glaziers; Val Bregaglia, chimney-sweepers. They are usually men of great industry and frugality, and, if possible, return to their native valleys to enjoy the results of their industry. In consequence of the great male emigration, all the hard work is done by women, particularly portage over the mountains; and from long practice, the women are better able to carry weights on their backs than the men.

The *Waldensian Valleys* are not less attractive for their Alpine scenery than interesting to Englishmen as the cradle and stronghold of a brave and steadfast Protestant community, who have maintained their faith in spite of persecution, fire, and sword. Milton and Wordsworth have commemorated the patient sufferings and heroic deeds of the Vaudois; and Dr. Gilly in recent times has rendered their story fascinating by the charms of an enthusiastic pen. As perfect religious liberty has been established in Piedmont since 1849, it may be hoped that the evil day is past, never to return. In 1852 a handsome Protestant church was finished and consecrated at Turin, and there are 15 other churches in the valleys tributary to the Po. The traveller may approach them most readily from Turin by rail to Pinerolo. La Tour in the Val Pellice is good headquarters for excursions (see Rtes. 161, 162). The Vaudois have been established in the valleys of the Alps since the 8th century, and refer the

origin of their faith and sect to the time of the Apostles, and the first ages of Christianity. Their numbers in the valleys amount to about 22,000, but they are rapidly increasing and spreading, and there are large colonies of them in Turin and Genoa. Cromwell courageously interposed to protect them in their distress, and stirred up all the powers of Europe on their behalf; he also raised a subscription for their aid, part of which was funded, and, though the sum was appropriated by Charles II., the interest has since been paid by the British Government for their support.

The best season for travelling in this part of the Alpine chain seems to be July and August. In September the weather generally breaks up, but often becomes settled again; and for those who do not seek to ascend to great heights, the most delightful season for travelling in the southern valleys is often found in the autumn, sometimes even extending into the month of October.

“In the Piedmontese valleys the N.W. and N.N.W. winds bring fine weather.”—*Forbes*.

§ 2. *Inns*.—The *Inns* within the frontier of Italy—excepting the few specially mentioned below in the following pages—are rather cheaper, but vastly inferior in accommodation, and especially in cleanliness, to those of Switzerland and Germany. Men may tolerate the inconveniences, but they will be more seriously felt by ladies, who must be prepared at times to “rough it” after crossing the Italian border. The want of female attendance, the dirty floor seldom or never washed, scanty service, no bells, may be generally expected.

Endeavours are being made, especially by the “*Club Alpino*” of Turin, to improve the mountain Inns of Piedmont. In *Val d’Aosta* there are excellent Inns; at *d’Aosta* itself, and at *Courmayeur*, tolerable; at *St. Vincent*, at *Cogne*, and the *Bagni di Ceresole*, rough and homely quarters; at *Gressonay*, at *Breuil*, at *Alagna*, at *Ponte Grande* and *Macugnaga*, in *Val Auzasca*, tolerable Inns; at *Stresa* and *Baveno*, on *Lago Maggiore*, at *Orta* and *Varallo*, very good hotels.

N.B.—Italian innkeepers sometimes take advantage of the ignorance of strangers, and especially of English and American travellers, who are supposed to spend their money profusely, to introduce extortionate charges into the bill. These may generally be successfully resisted by a little judicious firmness, but it is sometimes prudent, and not unusual, to bargain before you enter your rooms, what you are to pay for them. Likewise in ordering dinner you may fix your own price—say 3 frs. a head—or you may be charged for each separate item. “My general practice, *after* having seen the best rooms the landlord has to offer, is to say, ‘My price is 1½ fr. per bed, and I dine at 3 frs. per head.’ This is invariably acquiesced in, although sometimes after some considerable demur, and I believe few people are better served than I am. I always make a point of going into the kitchen myself, and of consulting the chef as to the important matter of dinner, which usually secures the best things the larder contains.”—*F*. Extortion is more often attempted in Savoy and Dauphiné than in Piedmont, and the attempt more obstinately enforced.

In excursions over the high Alps of Piedmont and Savoy it is generally necessary to carry some provision of wine, bread, and meat. The shepherd’s fare of a mountain chalet in those parts is limited to milk, butter, and cheese, to which is added a coarse brown bread, in thin discs, baked twice a year,

and kept in store in the roof of the *châlet* until it is as hard as stone, and requires a hammer to break it. To this is sometimes added *polenta*, a porridge or pudding of maize-meal, and scraps of dried mutton.

When the traveller in the Alps receives the hospitality of the *curés* of retired villages, or of the pastor in the Protestant Waldensian valleys, where there are no inns, it is usual to leave with the housekeeper, or for her, a donation, which it is just should at least equal the cost of such accommodation at an inn; the tax would otherwise be heavy upon the limited means of the host, and kindness and attention are thus insured to future travellers. For supper, bed, and breakfast, 5 or 6 *fra.* are given. The *curés* in these valleys are not often much superior to the ordinary peasants, from whom they have no doubt sprung, and their income is very limited. They are, however, often ardent mountaineers.

§ 3. *Roads, Mules, &c.*—The *Roads* skirting the Alps, and the approaches to them from the plains of Piedmont, are generally excellent. Wherever there is intercourse there is a good road adapted to the wants of the inhabitants: if fit for *Volantins* or chars, these may always be obtained at moderate charges, usually 12 francs a day.

*Mules* may readily be obtained in all mountain routes accessible to them, at charges varying from 5 to 6 francs a day; and *guides* at 4 or 5 francs a day may be had in many Alpine villages of Piedmont. Ladies will now find *saddles* in most places where there are inns and horses; where these are not, ladies had better not venture. On mountain excursions a *portantine*, or *chaise à porteur*, may be procured.

If mules, horses, or a char be taken across the frontier, a *boleto*, or permission to pass the douane, is necessary; here the animal is registered, the course of the traveller stated, and money for the horse deposited as a duty upon the *entrées*, which is repaid to the owner when he leaves the place on the frontier indicated in the *boleto* as the point by which he is to return to his own country.

§ 4. *Guides.*—Rigid caution should be exercised in choosing and adopting *Guides* on the Italian side of the Alps. Guides by profession are rarer here than in Switzerland, and any idle person, however unqualified, may offer himself for the sake of a good day's wages. No one should be accepted without sufficient evidence both of *good character* and experience, from the innkeepers, the *curé*, or some respectable person of his village. Certificates from former employers should be inquired for. The value of such testimony will be appreciated when travellers are told how in some cases, in remote places, men will press themselves into your service to conduct you over dangerous passes which they have never even seen, or of others who, in the middle of an intricate pass, where their services are indispensable, will become menacing and extortionate, and even strike for higher wages. Few scruple to avow their acquaintance with places of which they really know nothing; their only use, then, to the traveller is to bear his luggage, and talk Piedmontese, a jargon which few travellers are acquainted with. In Piedmont French and Italian are often unknown; among those, however, who are accustomed to act as guides, French is generally spoken, especially in the valleys on the frontiers of Savoy and



France. In most of the French Alpine valleys of the *Dépt. de l'Isère* the guide by profession is unknown, and the stranger is liable to conspiracies between innkeepers and men who call themselves guides to extort money and enhance the value of their services.

§ 5. *Posting—Distances.*—The posting regulations in the kingdom of Sardinia are similar to those of France, the distances being reckoned in kilomètres (see p. xvii.), and the charges nearly the same, viz. 20 centimes per kil. for each horse, and 12 for postilions; on the mountain-passes of Mt. Cenis, the Simplon, and Tenda, the charge for each horse is increased one-third, or to 30c.

The number of horses which the postmasters can put on is regulated according to the size of the carriages and the number of people, for which purpose all vehicles are arranged under three classes. The postmasters of Turin and Genoa are allowed to charge as for additional distance.

At the posthouses on the passes of the Monts Cenis, Simplon, and Col di Tenda, the masters must provide sledges during the winter season, for the hire of which they are entitled to charge 15 c. per kilomètre; and 3 and 4 francs for dismounting and placing on the sledge each carriage, according to the class to which it may be referable. On some roads *chevaux de renfort* must be taken or paid for. For fuller details the traveller is referred to 'Articles de Règlement sur les Postes aux Chevaux,' which can be purchased everywhere.

Owing to the extension of railways throughout Piedmont, *Diligences* are now little used save for the purpose of crossing the passes of the Cenis, Simplon, or Tenda, or to communicate between some country town and the nearest railway station. The postilion asks a *buonamano* of the passengers at every stage; the smallest coin will satisfy him.

§ 6. *Frontiers and Custom-houses.*—As there is much smuggling on the frontier of France, the traveller is often subjected to vexatious delay, but time will always be gained by submitting to it. The French and Italian officials are usually very civil. N.B. *Tobacco* is strictly prohibited. Travellers ought even to declare the possession of a few cigars (when declared a small number are allowed to pass free), otherwise they may be subjected to heavy fine and detention.

§ 7. It is almost unnecessary to advise a traveller not to sleep in the plains if he can reach the mountains. His own love of that "health in the breeze and freshness in the gale," which is so exciting and invigorating in the mountains, would prompt him to seek for the pleasure of breathing it and the spirits it inspires; but the suggestion is offered to induce young travellers to avoid sleeping near the rice-grounds of Piedmont, or near the ponds, where in the summer the Piedmontese steep their hemp: these are deleterious, and may produce fever.

§ 8. The *wines* of Piedmont are generally wholesome, and often good; there is scarcely a village on the mountains where *grissini*—a fine sort of biscuit like long pipes, and made of excellent flour—cannot be obtained. The traveller should never fail to supply his pockets with some of this bread or biscuit broken into convenient lengths; this, with a quaff from a fresh spring, will bear him, if taken at his intervals of rest, through a long day's journey.

§ 9. The *money* of Piedmont is the same as that of France; i. e. of the same quality, denomination, and value.

§ 10. *Maps.*—The War Department has published at Turin a map of Piedmont and Savoy in 6 sheets, price 35 fr.: 2 sheets contain Savoy, 14 fr. A map of the kingdom, in 91 sheets, on a scale of  $\frac{1}{30000}$ , has been undertaken by the Government; 60 sheets have been published; the mountains are ludicrously inaccurate. A portable reduction from this map has been published at Turin. General Bourcet's map of the French Alps from Nice to Pont Beauvoisin was remarkably well executed for the time when it was published—nearly a century ago. A faithful reduction of this map to two small sheets may be had. Reilly's Map of Mont Blanc, 1865, does great credit to its author; it is both the most accurate and one of the best engraved maps of the Alps. Perrin, at Chambéry, has published a tolerable map of Savoy at 4 fr., and a smaller at 1 fr. 50 cent. A voluminous 'Dizionario Geografico, Storico,' &c., of the States of the King of Sardinia, has been completed. All maps of the country may be procured at Maggi's shop in the Contrada del Po, Turin, and also at Perrin's, Chambéry. Perrin has also published maps of Savoy on a large scale, and works on the ornithology and the botany of Savoy, well got up and executed; also a Guide to Savoy.

The best map of the country N. of Monte Rosa is Studer's, Zürich, but the paths are unaccountably omitted.

Neither Leuthold nor Keller is very accurate on the Italian side of the Alps.

In this Handbook some routes through the higher parts of the Dauphiné Alps have been included. The scenery well deserves the attention of Alpine travellers; but the filthy habits of the people, and the scarcity of decent accommodation, have hitherto repelled strangers. It is a remarkable fact that the only tolerable map of the country is a century old—that of General Bourcet.

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*Pedestrian Tours of Six Weeks or Two Months, chiefly in the Alps of Savoy and Piedmont.*

\*\* Carriage Road.    \* Char Road.    † Mule Road.    § Footpath.

All names following the marks indicated are the same as the last.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ** Geneva to Sallenches, or St. Martin.  | * Martigny. (See Switzerland, Route 59.) |
| * Chamouny.  | ** Visp in Valais.                       |
| † Tête Noire to Trient.  | † Zermatt, Riffelberg, &c.               |
| Col de Balme to Chamouny.  | § Pass of the Mont Cervin.               |
| § Breven.  | † Châtillon, Val d'Aosta.                |
| Montanvert, le Jardin.   | † Col de Jon.                            |
| † Chamouny to Cormayeur, by the Col de Vosa, Col de Bonhomme and the Col de la Seigne. | † Brussone.                              |
| ** Cormayeur to Aosta.   | † Col de Ranzola.                        |
| * St. Remy.  | Gressoney.                               |
| † Hospice of the Great St. Bernard.  | † Col d'Ollen.                           |
| † Liddes.  | † Riva.                                  |
|  | † Varallo, Val Sesia.                    |
|  | † Col de Colma.                          |
|  | Pella—Lake of Orta.                      |

Omegna.  
 \*\* Vogogna.  
 † Macugnaga—Monte Rosa.  
 § Monte Moro.  
 Saas.  
 † Visp, in Valais.  
 \*\* Pass of the Simplon.  
 \*\* Arona—Lago Maggiore.  
 \*\* Borgomanero.  
 \*\* Biella.  
 \*\* Ivrea.  
 \*\* Aosta.  
 † Cogne.  
 § Pont—Val d'Orca.  
 † Ceresol.

§ Col de Galèse, and return to Chapis.  
 § Col de la Croix de Nivolet.  
 § Val Savaranche.  
 \*\* Villeneuve—Val d'Aosta.  
 \* St. Didier—Mont Saxe.  
 † The Cramont, the Belvedere, and Pass of the Little St. Bernard.  
 \* Bourg St. Maurice.  
 \* Moutiers Tarentaise.  
 \*\* L'Hôpital Conflans.  
 Ugine.  
 Faverges.  
 Annecy.  
 Geneva.

*Six Weeks' Excursion to the Vaudon Valleys.*

\* Moutiers Tarantaise.  
 Baths of Brida.  
 † Pralognan.  
 Col de Vanoise.  
 Lanslebourg.  
 \*\* Pass of the Mont Cenis.  
 Susa.  
 † Cesanne.  
 † Col de Sestrières.  
 \* Pragelas—Val Clusone.  
 Perouse.

† Val Germanasca. Protestant valley.  
 Balsille.  
 Col de la Fontaines.  
 Pralis.  
 Col Julian.  
 Bobbio.  
 \* La Tour.  
 † Val Angrona.  
 Rora.  
 \*\* Luserna.  
 § Sea Bianca.

Crissolo.  
 § Pass of the Traversette.  
 † Abriés.  
 Combe de Queyras.  
 \* Embrun.  
 \*\* Gap.  
 Grenoble.  
 Chambéry.  
 Aix.  
 Annecy.  
 Geneva.

*The Tour of Monte Rosa, allowing time to see the Chief Places of Interest, and avoiding the more difficult Excursions. Starting from the Valais.*

Visp.  
 1. Saas.  
 2. Excursion to Fée Glacier, and sleep at Matmark Hotel.  
 3. Monte Moro to Macugnaga.  
 4. Macugnaga glacier.  
 5. Vanzone.  
 6. Barranca Pass to Fobello.  
 7. Varallo—Sacro Monte.  
 8. Alagna—Val de Bours.

9. Col d'Ollen to Gressonay.  
 10. Lys Glacier, return to Gressonay.  
 11. Pointe de Combetta, Col de Ranzola to Châtillon.  
 12. Breuil.  
 13. Col de St. Théodule to Zermatt.  
 14. Gorner Grat, sleep at Riffelberg.  
 15. Schwarze See, return to Zermatt.  
 16. By St. Niklaus to Visp.

*Same Tour, slightly varied, and commencing at Baveno.  
Passes taken in the opposite direction.*

**Baveno.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Orta by the Motterone.</li><li>2. Varallo by Omegna and the Monte Mazzucone.</li><li>3. Excursion to Rima, sleep at Rimasco.</li><li>4. Col d'Egua to Ponte Grande</li><li>5. Macugnaga.</li><li>6. Macugnaga Glacier.</li><li>7. Monte Moro to Saas.</li><li>8. Excursion to Fée Glacier.</li><li>9. St. Niklaus.</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>10. Zermatt.</li><li>11. Schwarze See, Hörnli, and return by Zmutt.</li><li>12. Gorner Grat, sleep at Riffelberg.</li><li>13. Col de St. Théodule to Breuil.</li><li>14. Brissone, by the Cimes Blanches, or by Châtillon, or (?) by Col de Portola.</li><li>15. Pointe de Combetta, Gressoney.</li><li>16. Lys Glacier, return to Gressoney.</li><li>17. Col d'Ollen to Alagna.</li><li>18. Pile Alp, and return to Varallo.</li></ol> |
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## ROUTES IN PIEDMONT AND SAVOY.

### ROUTE 111.

DOMO D'OSSOLA TO ARONA. BORROMEAN ISLANDS. LAGO MAGGIORE.

	Miles.
Domo.	
Vogogna . . . . .	9
Baveno . . . . .	15
Arona . . . . .	12

This is one of the most beautiful roads for entering Italy. From Domo d'Ossola at the foot of the Simplon (Rte. 59) a few hours' drive carries the traveller to the shores of the Lago Maggiore, where, if he be crossing the Alps for the first time, he finds himself in a new world. Rlwy. slowly in progress.

From Domo to Baveno takes nearly 4 hrs. posting, exclusive of stoppages. Travellers can join the steamers, which go up and down the lake 4 times a-day, either at Pallanza or Baveno. Stresa or Baveno are the best stopping-places for those intending to visit the Borromean Islands, or to ascend the Motterone; they are on the road to Arona, the railway stat. for Milan, Turin, and Genoa. Pallanza is rather nearer, and more convenient for those bound for Lugano, or the N. end of the Lago Maggiore. A char to either place costs about 15 frs.

The road descends the valley of the Tosa, the bridges over which, below Domo d'Ossola, and again 6 m. below Vogogna were carried off by the storms of 1834 and 1849.

At Pallenzano a road turns off rt. to Pié de Mulera and Val Anzasca (Rte. 121). After leaving Domo the valley widens and loses its beauty.

*Vogogna* (Inn, Alb. della Corona, fair). The Tosa, here crossed by a bridge above the confluence of the Anza is navigable, in spite of its rapidity, a short distance above this

place; the barges are towed up by double teams of 6 or 8 horses on each bank.

At Premosello a carriage-road to Pallanza branches E. passing the beautiful *Lake Mergozzo*; it is sure to become popular with travellers.—Recross Tosa.

Near Ornavasca are the white marble quarries which have supplied the stone for Milan Cathedral.

At *Gravellona* a large bridge crosses the Strona, a stream which drains the Lago d'Orta and sets in motion several large cotton mills. A carriage-road, running up its l. bank, leads, in 4 m., to the lake of Orta. Dil. daily. (See Rte. 118.)

Here another road leads to *Pallanza*, whilst the main road continues to

*Furiolo* (Inn, Lion d'Or, attentive landlord. Here the Lago Maggiore bursts into view, with the Isola Madre, the northernmost of the Borromean Islands, in the distance. A little further are quarries of a beautiful rose granite, which derives its colour from the prevalence of felspar. It cleaves into thin slabs. The telegraph posts are made of granite. Felspar is obtained here in beautiful flesh-coloured detached crystals. Steamers call off here and Baveno at 9½ A.M. descending, and at 1½ P.M. on ascending the lake.

*Baveno*.—Inns: H. Bellevue, a new house on the lake, well managed and comfortable; H. de la Poste, improved, moderate charges. 2 m. farther on is

*Stresa*, \*H. des Iles Borromées, a very good house, on the most beautiful spot on the lake.

The principal object in going to Baveno or Stresa is to visit the *Borromean Islands* (which, however, may be nearly as well visited from Pallanza).

By starting tolerably early the islands may be visited from Baveno.

hence there is a pass to the S.E., leading through the Val Canobbina to Canobbio, on the Lago Maggiore. The route (path) to Locarno, 6 hrs., descends from Sta. Maria Maggiore along the Melezso torrent, through a valley called *Centovalli*.

It is about 6 hrs. walk by a rough path from Malesco to Locarno, passing *Borgnone* about half way. From

*Intragna* (Bustallo's Inn) the carriage-road begins. A little below Intragna the Melezso torrent joins that from the Val Ozzernone, and about 2 miles farther the joint stream unites with the *Maggia* near the town of Locarno (see Rte. 113).

## ROUTE 113.

### BELLINZONA TO MAGADINO OR LOCARNO.

The Swiss ports of Magadino and Locarno are nearly opposite to each other at the N. end of the Lago Maggiore. Though Locarno is the more important place, the steamers start from Magadino (calling at Locarno), Magadino being nearer to Bellinzona and the road of the St. Gothard. It is 9 m. (carriage 10 fr.) from Bellinzona to Magadino, and about 12½ to Locarno (carriage 15 fr.). Omnibuses ply to both places to meet the steamers.

The lower part of the valley of the Ticino, between Bellinzona and the lake, is a broad plain, from which the mountains recede to a considerable distance, but still give grandeur to the landscape. The country is highly cultivated, the slopes covered with vineyards, but the bottom becomes marshy lower down, and is therefore unhealthy.

a. On quitting Bellinzona for Magadino by the Lugano gate the dry bed of a torrent called *Dragonata* is passed. As its name would imply, it is at times a great scourge; it carried off in 1768 the Franciscan convent outside the town, and threatens similar injury.

There are many country-houses on the outskirts; and high upon the slopes of the hills are numerous buildings, now deserted, to which in ancient times the natives of Bellinzona used to resort for safety when the plague was raging in the town. At *Cadenazzo*, the road to Lugano, over the Monte Cenere (Rte. 114), turns to the E. out of our route.

*Magadino*. (Inn: H. Belvedere, not recommended, dirty and dear.) The reputation of the unhealthiness of this place has been exaggerated, and can only apply to the months of September and October, when fevers are at times prevalent owing to the neighbouring delta of the Ticino; much has been done to remedy this, and effectually.

Magadino, since the opening of the Railway between Turin, Genoa, and Arona, and the establishment of several daily lines of steamers in correspondence with it, has become a place of considerable commercial importance. Through it is carried a large amount of agricultural produce to Piedmont and Lombardy, and of the produce of the latter, including manufactures and colonial produce, for the consumption of Switzerland. Live stock especially is shipped from it in great numbers to the plains of Lombardy and Piedmont, and to Genoa. The hours of sailing of the steamers are liable to change. Travellers should consult the latest advertisements.

b. To Locarno. Carriage and 2 horses in 2 hrs. (15 fr.). The road hilly, but very beautiful. Rly. in contemplation. The road crosses the Ticino by a long bridge of 14 arches. In the autumn the river is very small, but is flooded in the spring and is kept in by a strong dyke called *Tondo Ripario*, constructed by the French under Francis I. The road now leaves the flat and



passes under the Monte Carasso, and commands a good view of the opposite mountains, including the Monte Cenere, and up the valley over the romantic town of Bellinzona to the snowy Alps towering behind it. The road then passes through a wall constructed by the Swiss (since 1848) as a fortification. At the bridge of Sementina, a torrent issuing out of a ravine on the rt. forms a pretty waterfall. The latter part of the route, after crossing the torrent Verzasca as it winds along the W. shore of the lake, is delightful, carried amongst villas and chestnut-trees, mulberry-trees, and vines, and commanding exquisite views of the lake and mountains. The road though hilly is excellent, and there is not a more beautiful drive in Switzerland.

*Locarno* (Germ. Luggarus). (*Inns*: Corona, by the lake, very fair—attentive waiter; Svizzero, in the town, tolerably good). This is one of the three capitals of canton Tessin; it has 3000 Inhab., and is said to have once contained many more, but has decayed since the 15th century in population and prosperity. It is beautifully situated on the margin of the lake, on which it has a little port, at the foot of the wooded cliffs surmounted by the church of Madonna del Sasso, the most picturesque of monastic groups, and near the entrance of the converging valleys of Verzasca, Maggia, Ozzernone, and Centovalli. The people, the vegetation, and the sky are all Italian. The groves of orange and lemon, the tall white steeples on the hill-sides, and the little white chapels peering out from among the trellised vines, and mirrored in the glassy lake, are all characteristic features of an Italian landscape, even though, as far as frontier lines are concerned, we are still in Switzerland. The deposits of the numerous torrents here flowing into the lake have encroached considerably upon it, forming a flat delta. The spot is one of singular beauty, and greatly to be preferred to Magadino by travellers requiring to halt for the night near the head of the Lago Maggiore, pre-

vious to embarking, or willing to remain there for a few days to explore the neighbouring valleys.

The *Government House*, in the midst of a square planted with shrubberies, was built by a joint-stock company for the sittings of the grand council. In the *old castle* are some antique rooms with beautiful wood-carvings. The *Madonna del Sasso*, 20 min. walk above the town, is well worth a visit. The path is formed into a Calvary, inferior to those at Domo d'Ossola and Varallo, but beautifully laid out with steps and paths cut in the rock. The portico of the church commands an exquisite view over the blue lake, and the entrance of the valley of the Ticino, whose winding course may be traced flashing in the sun. Moreover its *church* contains paintings by Luini, stuccoes, bas-reliefs, &c. From this a footpath leads in 10 min. to the *Monte de la Trinità*, commanding an extensive panorama. On Sunday, Jan. 9, 1863, a portion of the roof of the parish ch. (S. Antonio), being loaded with snow, gave way under the weight, fell upon the congregation at prayers, and crushed to death 47 persons, chiefly women.

The *market* at Locarno, held once a fortnight, is frequented by the natives of the neighbouring valleys, and exhibits a singular mixture of costumes.

In former days the power and intolerance of the Romish priesthood acted prejudicially to the liberties and interests of Locarno, compelling those among the citizens who had adopted the Reformed faith to emigrate. In March, 1553, 116 persons, including women and children, who had refused to purchase the privilege of remaining by the sacrifice of their religion, were banished by a decree of the Swiss Diet, and quitted their homes for ever. With them went industry and prosperity; they settled at Zürich, transferring thither the manufacture of silk, which is now of such vast commercial importance to that city. The day after the sentence

of exile had been pronounced, the papal nuncio arrived with two inquisitors: he indignantly objected to the mildness of the sentence, and urged the deputies of the diet, under pain of the pope's displeasure, to couple with it confiscation of the goods of the heretics, and separation of them from their children, in order that they might be educated by the priests. To this demand, however, the deputies did not yield obedience. The doctrines of the Reformation were preached here first by Beccaria, a pious Milanese monk, about 1534: he was soon expelled, and took refuge in the Val Misocco.

There were 21 convents in canton Tessin, but nearly all of them are now suppressed. The criminal statistics of the district around Locarno formerly showed a large amount of crime in proportion to the number of inhabitants. The neighbouring valley of Verzasca was in evil repute for the number of assassinations committed in it. At certain seasons, when the vines require pruning, the men wear at their girdle, behind, a knife a foot long, called *falcuolo*—a very awkward weapon; but we have been assured by the municipal authorities that this state of things is greatly amended. However, political feeling still runs high among so hot-blooded a people. In 1855 one of the most influential men in the town, leader of one party, was deliberately murdered by two brothers, leaders of the other party. The two brothers were sentenced to perpetual imprisonment; but the superior tribunal, having decided "that this crime ought not to rank with common offences," soon set them at liberty.

The Val Maggia (Germ. Mayenthal), which opens out close to Locarno, is a very considerable valley with many tributaries. Half an hour's drive, on the way to the Val Maggia, is the *Ponte Brolla*, an ancient and picturesque bridge. A carriage-road has been made to Cevio (a tolerable Inn), in the main valley, about 18 m. from Locarno, and thence 9 m. to Peccia, through the branch called

*Val Lavizzara*. From Fusio, the highest village in that branch of the valley, there is a pass to Airolo in 6 hrs. The pass of the Criner Furca from Cevio to the Val Formazza is noticed in Rte. 62. At the head of the Val Ozerzone, another tributary valley, are the *Baths of Craveggia*, said to be serviceable in scrofulous cases and in internal obstructions. The route to Domo d'Ossola by the Centovalli is described Rte. 112. These valleys are rarely visited by strangers.

## ROUTE 114.

BELLINZONA TO LUGANO AND COMO, BY THE MONTE CENERE.

To Lugano, 2½ Swiss posts=20 Eng. m. Although the distance is so small, it will occupy 4 hrs. Lugano to Como, 2½ posts=19 Eng. m.

Diligences daily to Lugano (4 fr. 20), and Como (8 fr. 70).

This road turns out of the valley of the Tessin at Cadenazzo (Rte. 113), 5 m. below Bellinzona, and begins to ascend the Monte Cenero, a steep mountain, whose sides, shady with walnut and chesnut wood, are scaled by numerous zigzags, commanding exquisite views of the Vale of the Tessin and head of Lago Maggiore. The top cannot be reached in less than 2 hrs. from Bellinzona (Reinfort to Caserma.) Even a light car-

riage must take 4 post-horses to ascend. This part of the road has long been infested by robbers, and, not long ago, the night diligence, in crossing it, was accompanied by an armed escort; but, since a guardhouse of carabinieri has been established on the summit, there appears to be less danger. From the summit a fine view is obtained over the N. extremity of the Lago Maggiore. At *Rivera* the road falls in with the river Agno, which rises about 12 m. to the E., at the foot of the Monte Camoghè, and follows it through Bironico to Morone, where it turns to the L., and again ascends a slight eminence, whence an interesting prospect opens out on the opposite descent towards Lugano. In front expands its beautiful lake, backed by mountains; and, on the rt., the Monte Salvatore, with the church on its conical summit, becomes conspicuous.

*Lugano* (Germ. *Lauis*) (see Rte. 115) is distant about 19 m. from Como (3 hrs. posting) and 12 from Varese: the Lago di Como at Menaggio, on the E., may be reached in 3 hrs., and the Lago Maggiore at Luino in less (Rte. 115).

The road to Como runs by the water-side, under the Monte Salvatore. The limestone rocks, composing its base, exhibit a singular phenomenon, highly interesting to the geologist. About 10 minutes' walk beyond the chapel of San Martino, a compact smoke-grey limestone appears by the road-side, in beds about a foot thick. "The further we advance, the more we find the beds of limestone traversed by small veins, lined with rhombs of dolomite. As we advance, the rock appears divided by fissures, the stratification ceases to be distinct, and, where the face of the mountain becomes perpendicular, it is found to be formed entirely of dolomite, which becomes gradually purer and more white, until a little way from Melide, where it is succeeded by a dark augite porphyry." The geologist Von Buch considered that the gas discharged from this latter igneous

rock, at the time when the mountain was upheaved by volcanic forces from below, has penetrated the fissures of the limestone, and changed the part of it nearest to the porphyry into dolomite. The change in colour and substance, from a grey limestone into a white crystalline marble, like loaf-sugar, may be easily traced in its gradual transition by the road-side. Ascent of the Monte Salvatore. See Rte. 115.

At *Melide* a promontory projects into the lake, from the point of which a stone causeway 2400 ft. long has been thrown across, connected with either shore by stone bridges—thus replacing an inconvenient ferry, to *Bissone*. It cost more than a million francs. Melide is the birthplace of Fontana, the architect, who, in 1586, transported the Egyptian obelisk from the Coliseum at Rome, and erected it on the square in front of the Vatican.

After a delightful ride along the shore of the lake, the road quits it at *Capolago*, where were 2 printing-offices, chiefly of prohibited books, and commences a long ascent by

*Mendrisio* (Inn, Angelo), a town of 1700 Inhab. It is supposed to be the cradle of the once-powerful Milanese family Delle Torre, or Torriani. The inhabitants keep their wine in caves in the mountains, which form capital cellars.

[From Mendrisio, or the neighbouring village of *Balerna*, is the most convenient point for ascending the *Monte Generoso*, called also *Monte Gionnero*, the Rigi of the Italian lakes, and in natural advantages no way inferior to its Swiss rival. There is this great difference between them—that on the Rigi numerous hotels, and a whole army of guides, mules, and other assistants, await the tourist, while the few travellers who ascend the Monte Generoso find nothing of the sort. There is a large dairy-farm, perhaps 1 hr. from the top, on the S.E. side, where milk and bread can be had. A

mountaineer will have no difficulty in reaching the summit from any side; but the easiest way is by the *Val Muggio*, which opens out at the village of Balerna. Unless the traveller be well used to rough quarters, he will do better to sleep at Mendrisio, and start 2 or even 3 hrs. before daylight. There are no regular guides, and the best are boys who are used to tend cattle on the mountains. The panorama is *one of the very finest in the entire chain of the Alps.*]

The Italian custom-house and police-office is reached a little beyond Chiasso, and within 2 miles of constant descent of

COMO (*Inn*, Angelo). In HANDBOOK FOR NORTH ITALY. Railway from Camerlata (stat. on the top of a hill, 1 m. above the town) to Monza and Milan. Trains 4 times a day.

## ROUTE 115.

### BAVENO TO THE LAKE OF COMO, BY LUINO AND THE LAKE OF LUGANO.

This is perhaps the most agreeable mode of approaching the Lake of Como and combining in a single excursion the finest portions of the 3 lakes, Maggiore, Lugano, and Como.

Travellers coming from Turin or Genoa may take the steamer at Arona; those from the St. Gothard may start from Magadino or Locarno; while those who have crossed the Simplon, or who arrive from the valleys of Monte Rosa and the Lake of

Orta, will make Baveno the point of departure. In each case they will land at

*Luino* (*Inn*: H. della Beccaccia, very fair, civil people; Garibaldi made a stand in this house in 1849, and the walls still bear marks of the bullets), a small village, on the E. shore of the Lago Maggiore, the birthplace of the painter Bernardino, named after it *Luini*. A calèche with 2 horses to Lugano costs 15 frs. There is a *Diligence* daily corresponding with the steamers which touch here early, returning from Lugano at 3 P.M. A good carriage-road leads hence to Lugano, 13 or 14 m., a drive of 2½ hrs., ascending, directly from the margin of the lake, the steep hills behind Luino, which command a fine prospect. It then follows the rt. bank of the Tresa, upwards, at a considerable height above that river, through a beautiful valley, crossing the Swiss frontier about 3 m. from Luino.

*Ponte Tresa*, a village of 365 inhabitants, is named from an old wooden bridge which leads to the rt., away from our road, across the river into Lombardy. At the further end stands the Italian toll and custom-house; and, on this side, a Swiss toll is exacted. A proportion of the cattle with which Lombardy is supplied by Switzerland, pass over it. The village is prettily situated on a bay of the Lago Lugano, so completely land-locked as to seem a distinct lake.

Another of the winding reaches of the lake stretches N. about half a mile on the E. of our road, as far as

*Agno*, a village of 600 Inhab. placed at the spot where the Agno or Bedagio, empties itself into the lake.

One of the prettiest scenes on this very picturesque road is that presented by the village and small lake of Muzzano, which lies on the l. of the road to

*Lugano* — *Inns*: H. du Parc, large, and well situated on the site of the Convent of the Angels; baths in the house—charges, in summer 9 fr. s

day, in winter 6 fr.; Albergo Svizzero; Couronne. Eng. Ch. serv.

Lugano, one of the 3 chief towns of the canton Tessin, and the largest, most thriving in trade, and most extending in population, contains 5600 Inhab., and is charmingly situated on the margin of the Lago Lugano. It is a regular Italian town of dirty arcaded streets, and deserves to be visited only for the beauty of its site and the scenery of its lake. The hills and mountains around abound in all the productions of the luxuriant vegetation of Italy; and numerous villas are scattered along its slopes and margin, embowered among vineyards and gardens, and backed by the foliage of the umbrageous walnut. The principal Church, of *San Lorenzo*, is planted on an eminence, commanding a fine view. The façade is richly adorned with sculpture, and is said to be from a design of *Bramante*.

Close to the H. du Parc is the Ch. of *Santa Maria degli Angeli*, founded in 1499, containing remarkable paintings in fresco by *Bernardino Luini*; a Crucifixion of large size and many figures covering the wall which divides the choir from the body of the ch. It is one of the finest works of the Lombard school. It is flanked by figures, life-size, of S. Sebastian and S. Roch (? a portrait of Luini): observe the angel and the devil extracting the souls from the mouth of the two thieves! A Madonna with the 2 children, in fresco, removed to a side-chapel on the rt., is a work of great beauty and refinement; the Last Supper, in 3 compartments. These paintings were almost the last works of Luini executed before his death, 1530.

The Post-office is in the Government House (Palazzo Civico), in Reform-square: near it is the *Liceo* (Cantonal College). There is a Theatre here.

The *Giardino Ciani*, on the margin of the lake, contains a statue (overpraised), *La Desolazione*, by Vincenzo Vela, a Swiss sculptor, who modelled the statue of William Tell on the fountain before the H. du Parc.

The landlord of the Park Hotel has an English clergyman residing with him in summer, who performs on Sundays the English church-service.

*Diligence* daily to Luino (Rte. 115), to Bellinzona, and to Como (Camerlata Stat.) (Rte. 114). Steamers on the Lago Lugano to Capo di Lago and to Porlezza daily.

Boats on the lake, with 1 boatman, 2 fr. for the hour; with 2, 3 fr.

There are considerable factories for throwing silk grown in canton Tessin; and Lugano further derives activity and prosperity from being the entrepôt of goods shipped across the lake from Italy, to be transported over the Alps, and *vice versa*. A large fair is held here on the 9th October.

*Monte Caprino*. — The mountain opposite Lugano is penetrated by natural grottoes, which have been converted into cellars, called *Cantine*. Numerous small houses are built over them; so that at a distance they have the appearance of a village. These are much resorted to in summer by the townspeople on account of their coolness.

One of the chief objects of interest near Lugano is the panorama of the Alps from the top of *Monte Salvatore*. Time in ascending from the hotel to a turning out of high road into a char-road 15 min.; sharp ascent of 20 min. to a bad mule-path; from thence 50 min. to the summit, 2682 ft. above the sea-level. The slope is covered with cyclamen. This mountain, wooded nearly to the top, forms a promontory, washed on two sides by the Lake of Lugano. The view extends over numerous other lakes, and is bounded by the snowy chain of the Alps. The distant prospect cannot be compared with that from the Motterone, or, better still, from the Monte Generoso, as it is limited in many directions by intervening summits; but the view of the Monte Rosa chain, and the glimpses of more distant snowy Alps, heighten the effect of the beautiful scenery near at hand. On the summit is a pilgrimage chapel. The entire excursion takes 3 hrs. good walking, or 4 on horseback. The

charge for a horse or mule is 6 fr., but more is often demanded, and a present (*buonamano*) to the guide is expected. It is a good plan for ladies to take a carriage to the beginning of the mule-path, and let it await their return, while they climb the hill on foot. For the geology see Rte. 114.

"Monte Salvatore stands amid the intricacies of the Lake of Lugano, and is, from a hundred points of view, its principal ornament—rising to a height of 2000 ft., and, on one side, nearly perpendicular. The ascent is toilsome, but the traveller who performs it will be amply rewarded. Splendid fertility, rich woods, and dazzling waters, seclusion and confinement of view contrasted with sea-like extent of plain, fading into the sky—and this again, in an opposite quarter, with an horizon of the loftiest and boldest Alps—unite in composing a prospect more diversified by magnificence, beauty, and sublimity than perhaps any other point in Europe, of so inconsiderable an elevation, commands."—*Wordsworth*.

The *Lago Lugano* (called also *Ceresio*) is exceedingly irregular in shape, making several very acute bends, so that the conspicuous mountain Salvatore stands on a promontory, washed on two sides by its waters: its greatest length is about 20 m. Its E. and W., and one of its S. arms, terminate in the Lombard territory.

The scenery of this lake is surpassingly beautiful, and has a character distinct from that of its two neighbours, Como and Maggiore, in being more rugged and uncultivated. It at the same time presents great variety; near Lugano its shores are as smiling, as frequently speckled with white villas and churches, and as richly fringed with vines, fig-trees, and walnut-groves, as the more garden-like borders of the Lago di Como; but, in penetrating its E. bay from Lugano to Porlezza, the mountains gradually assume a more wild and precipitous outline, and the darker tints of the rock and oak copse furnish the predominating colour.

*Steamer from Capo di Lago to Lu-*

*gano, and Lugano to Porlezza.* Those who wish to enjoy the scenery at their leisure will prefer a row-boat—charge with 1 rower 7 fr., with 2 rowers 12 fr.

*Porlezza* lies within the Italian frontier. Chars may be hired here to go to Menaggio. The road traverses a very pretty valley, passing on the rt. the little lake of PIANO. It is a walk of about 2 hrs. (carriage 10 or 12 fr.) to reach

*Menaggio* (*Inn: Corona*), an unimportant village on the W. shore of the Lago di Como. Near it is the *Villa Vigoni*, formerly *Mylius*, with some good statues. The pedestrian, with a guide, may reach Cadenabbia or La Majolica without descending to Menaggio. The path is rough, but the scenery beautiful. Excellent Hotels are the Bellevue at Cadenabbia, and the good and quiet Hôtel de la Ville de Milan at La Majolica, close to which the steamers stop.

#### LAKE OF COMO.

From the hill above Menaggio, on the Porlezza road, the traveller obtains his first view of the lake of Como, at perhaps the most beautiful point of this most beautiful of the Italian lakes.

The Lake of Como, called by the ancients *Lacus Larius* (to Lari Max-ume!—*Virg.*), is about 40 miles long, from N. to S. Its S. extremity is divided into two branches by the promontory of Bellaggio; at the bottom of one of these bays lies Comum (Comum), the birthplace of Pliny and Volta; and, at the extremity of the other, on the E., Lecco. The chief feeder of the lake is the Adda, which enters it at the N., and flows out at Lecco. Taken altogether, it perhaps surpasses in beauty of scenery, and in the richness of its vegetation, every other lake in Italy. It enjoys a classical reputation, as the residence of the two Plinys, and the scene of the scientific researches of the elder Pliny, the naturalist. Claudian describes the



voyage up the lake in the following elegant lines :—

“*Protinus umbrosâ quâ vestit littus olivâ  
Larina, et dulci mentitur Nerea fluctu,  
Parvâ puppe lacum prætervolat, oculus inde  
Scandit inaccessos brumali sidere montes.*”

A true poetic picture is presented by the author of ‘*Philip van Artevelde*’—

“*Sublime, but neither bleak nor bare,  
Nor misty are the mountains there,  
Softly sublime—profusely fair,  
Up to their summits clothed in green,  
And fruitful as the vales between,  
They lightly rise,  
And scale the skies,  
And groves and gardens still abound ;  
For where no shoot  
Could else take root  
The peaks are shelved, and terraced round.  
Earthward appear in mingled growth  
The mulberry and maize, above  
The trellis’d vine extends to both  
The leafy shade they love.  
Looks out the white-wall’d cottage here,  
The lowly chapel rises near ;  
Far down the foot must roam to reach  
The lovely lake and bending beach ;  
While chestnut green and olive gray  
Chequer the steep and winding way.*”

To describe all the objects of interest on the shores of the lake, and the excursions which may be made among the surrounding mountains and valleys, would fill a moderate volume. The majority of visitors, however, content themselves with the immediate shores and neighbourhood of the lake, and with the exquisite views which they obtain without labour from the boat or steamer on the lake.

The proper fare for a row-boat is 1 fr. an hour for each boatman. When time is not an object and the weather is settled one boatman is enough. In fine weather during summer the winds are invariable: from sunrise to 10 or 11 a gentle breeze, N., or down the lake: calm for an hour or two till past 12, when a gentle breeze, S., or up the lake, rises, and continues till sunset, after which a dead calm till sunrise. Boats avail themselves of this, and wait for wind as a river barge waits for tide. As a general rule the surface of the lake is but slightly furrowed; sudden storms are, however, not rare, and the violent squalls that sometimes sweep down the lake are dangerous to inexperienced

boatmen. Several fatal accidents have happened to foreign visitors. The boats are most picturesque, and exactly resemble those depicted by old painters. They are not so slow as their appearance would lead one to expect.

The principal places on the E. shore of the lake are noticed in Rte. 116. The following are the chief places on the W. shore and on the Como branch of the lake, commencing at the N. end.

*Domaso*, nearly opposite to *Colico*. From hence there is a pass into the *Val Misocco*, and another over the *Jorio Pass* (about 7000 ft.) to *Bellinzona* in 6 hrs. 2 m. from hence is

*Gravedona*, a large and populous village with a church of the 13th cent., containing some ancient Christian inscriptions from an earlier building.

*Dongo*, and

*Musso*, have little of interest.

*Rozzano* has the remains of a 13th cent. stronghold, now belonging to the Duke Litta. The boatmen here have the name of being the best on the lake, and will venture out when others dare not put out to meet the steamer.

*Menaggio* has been already noticed.

*La Majolica*, in a woody situation, 200 yards from the steamer’s landing-place at *Cadenabbia*, consists of but 3 or 4 houses close to the lake. A short walk with a gentle ascent leads to the church of *La Madonna di San Martino*, perched upon a shelf of rock overhanging the lake and commanding a beautiful view. A longer excursion, which may be made from hence or from *Cadenabbia*, is the ascent of the *Monte Crocione*. There is a circuitous path by which mules may (?) reach the summit, but the direct way is steep and fatiguing, and at the top the grass is even dangerously slippery. The finest view is not that from the N. point where stands a large wooden cross, but from another summit farther W. The view, though of course very fine, is not equal to those from the *Monte Generoso*, the *Legnone*, or the *Corno di Canzo*.

*Cadenabbia* (*Inns* : \**Bellevue*, very good, clean and comfortable, cooler than *Bellaggio*, English service;



Belle Ile, also well spoken of), a place of great resort with the Milanese in summer. Close to Cadenabbia is the *Villa Carlotta*, formerly *Sommaviva* (belonging to the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen), among terraces bordered with myrtle hedges 20 ft. high. This place contains the *Amore e Psyche*, and other works of *Canova*, and, above all, *Thorwaldsen's* grand bas-relief, the Triumph of Alexander, executed for Napoleon when Emperor, and designed by him to decorate the Simplon arch at Milan.

Opposite to Cadenabbia extends the promontory of Bellaggio.

*Bellaggio.* (Inns: \*H. Grande Bretagne, with gardens and excellent view; *first-rate* in comfort, cleanliness, and propriety, but dear. English Church service. It is admirably kept by M. and Mdme. Antonio Mella;—H. Genazzini good; H. and Pension de Florence.) This is a delightful spot, commanding noble views over the lake. The prospect is triple, extending upwards, as well as down towards Como and Lecco. The best points for enjoying it are the terraces and delightful gardens of the *Villa Serbelloni* above the village. There are no walks, however; nothing but narrow stony lanes between dead walls, obstructing all view.

The *Villa Melzi*, another palace, is elegantly fitted. It has fine works of art—statues, busts, a portrait of Napoleon; chiefly visited on account of its beautiful flower-garden, abounding in tropical plants, rare pines, &c.

The *Villa Giulia* belongs to the King of the Belgians. View over Lago di Lecco.

There are other villas in the neighbourhood to which the boatmen will take visitors. They all have their state-rooms, but are principally remarkable for the luxuriance with which English green-house plants flourish in the open air.

There cannot be a more delightful voyage than that along the S.W. arm of the lake to Como; the shores are literally speckled with villages

and with white villas, the summer resort of the Milanese gentry during the season of the *Villeggiatura*.

The village seen on the W. shore, immediately after leaving Cadenabbia, is

*Tremezzo*, with a second-rate Inn. Beyond this a rocky promontory stands out into the lake; its rounded summit is laid out as pleasure-ground, and near the point is the fine *Villa Balbianello*, belonging to Count Arconati. A few miles farther on the same side is

*Argegno*, at the opening of the *Fa. Intolvi*. From hence the Monte Generoso (Rte. 114) may conveniently be ascended. Nearly opposite is

*Nesso*; above it, in a narrow ravine called the *Orrido di Nesso*, is a waterfall not worth a visit from those who have seen the Alps. About 7 m. farther E. is

*La Pliniana*, now the property of Marchesa Trotti (or Princess Belgiojoso), a square building, so called, not because Pliny lived here, but because an intermittent spring, rising behind it, is asserted to be the one minutely described by him.

The *Villa Lenno* is supposed to stand on the site of *Pliny's Villa*, which, from its sombre situation, he called *Tragedia*; an opinion confirmed by the discovery of broken columns, &c., in the lake.

Nearly opposite is the hamlet of *Moltrasio*, which also boasts its waterfall; near to it is the large *Villa Pasalacqua*; and on the opposite or E. shore, on a projecting point, is the picturesque village of *Torno*. Thence to Como, wherever the slope of the mountain is not too steep, villas constantly succeed each other. Those of Madame Taglioni the opera dancer, of Prince Trubetzkoi, of Madame Pasta the singer, and of Count Taverna, are amongst the most noticeable. These villas, like all the places on the E. shore of this branch of the lake, are accessible only by water, or by an exceedingly rough path, fit only for mountaineers.

On the W. shore, about 2½ m. from Como, is

**Cernobbio. Inn:** \**La Regina d'Inghilterra*, a large and most comfortable hotel, admirable in cleanliness, good management, and in situation, close to the lake. It is very good and pleasant winter quarters. Adjoining it is the *Villa d'Este*, for sometime the residence of the late Queen Caroline. The *Monte Bisbino*, which rises N. of the hotel, and may be ascended in 2½ hrs., commands an admirable view. There is a good carriage-road to Como, and omnibus to Como, ½ hr. drive, and to Camerlata Stat. On the way is passed the *Villa Ruimondi*, one of the largest on the lake.

**Como.**—*Inns*: Angelo, close to the steamboat quay, good; Italia: neither of them comparable to the hotel at Cernobbio. See *Cathedral*, Rom. (1396); its Baptistry a design of Bramante's; 3 paintings by Luini. *Broletto* (town-hall), 13th centy., on arches. These buildings are of marble, in stripes. For a description of this very interesting town see **HANDBOOK FOR N. ITALY.**

Travellers bound for Milan should not forget that the rly. stat. is at Camerlata, 1½ m. up hill (omnibus in 20 min.). The antiquary should not omit to visit the church of *S. Abbondio*, 10th cent., about a mile out of the town. The villages by the lake and the scattered hamlets on the mountains are believed to contain many remains of early middle-age architecture which would well repay careful investigation.

## ROUTE 116.

### CHIAVENNA TO LECCO.

	Eng. m.
Chiavenna.	
Riva . . . . .	9
Colico . . . . .	9
Varenna . . . . .	11
Lecco . . . . .	15

The high-road connecting the pass of the Splügen with Milan runs through the valley of the *Maira* or *Mora*, and is thence carried along the E. shore of the L. of Como to Lecco. A diligence leaves Chiavenna ½ hour after midnight and reaches Lecco about 7; from thence it goes on to the rly. stat. at Monza, arriving in time for the train which reaches Milan at 10 o'clock. There is also an omnibus from Chiavenna to meet the lake steamer at Colico. Below Chiavenna (Rte. 87) the valley of the Maira is flat and marshy till it reaches

*Riva*, near the N. extremity of the Lago Mezzola, called also Lago di Riva. It is a most picturesque small lake, so walled in by mountains that, until a few years, there was no road by the side of it, and travellers were carried across it in flat barges by a tedious navigation, rendered difficult and intricate by the annually increasing deposits of mud, which form shoals between this lake and that of Como, and prevent the steamboat ascending to Riva. The naked and savage mountains around have a very peculiar outline. Their sides are furrowed with ravines, down which furious torrents precipitate themselves at some seasons, strewing the margin of the lake with wreck. The engineers who constructed the capital new road, finished in 1835, experienced the great-

est obstacles in crossing the débris at the mouth of these ravines. The Codera, one of the most furious torrents, spreads out its waste of rocks and gravel in the shape of a fan, for a breadth of at least half a mile. This river at ordinary times trickles through the stones in 3 or 4 paltry driblets, crossed by wooden bridges, under which the water is turned by the construction of artificial canals, flanked by wedge-shaped dams and dykes. After traversing this desolate space the road is carried through two galleries excavated in the rock, and soon after emerges upon the delta of the river Adda, flowing from the E. out of the Valteline into the lake of Como. There can be little doubt that the lake originally bathed the feet of the mountain on this side; but, in the course of ages, the deposits brought down by the Adda and Maira have so far encroached on it as to form an extensive plain of swamp and morass, through which the river Adda now winds. The new causeway stretches in a straight line across this morass, passing the Adda upon a long wooden bridge, too narrow for more than one carriage at a time. Near the centre of the plain the great road to the Stelvio branches off on the l. (See HANDBOOK FOR SOUTH GERMANY.) The Spanish Fort Fuentes, built 1603, as the key of the Valteline, on a rock, once, perhaps, an island, near the mouth of the Adda, is left on the rt., and the margin of the lake of Como is reached at

*Colico*, a village situated under the Monte Legnone, immediately S. of the embouchure of the Adda. It is less unwholesome than formerly, owing to the drainage of a large portion of the marsh-land. It is not, however, a good halting-place; the indifferent *Inns*, All' Isola Bella and Angelo, are poor and not clean.

*Steamboats* from Como arrive off Colico every day, about noon, and return in half an hour. On some days in the week there is also a steamer early in the morning. They will embark or disembark a carriage; fare, first class, 3 frs. Boats may at all times be hired here to cross or descend

the lake, but they are dear, and are scarcely safe for carriages.

Diligences daily—to Bormio Baths at the foot of the Stelvio, passing through Sondrio; to Milan, across the Splügen.

For Bellaggio and the villas on the Lake, see Rte. 115.

[Colico is the best point from whence to undertake the ascent of the *Legnone* (about 8600 Eng. ft.), the highest mountain rising from the shores of the lake. It is a long and fatiguing day's work, but the view from the summit when clear, which is not very commonly the case, must be of the highest order.] About half way to Varenna is *Corenno*, near the opening of the *Val Varrone*, from whence the ascent of the *Legnone* is also practicable. The whole road from Colico to Varenna is a remarkable specimen of engineering for the time when it was constructed. In several places the mountains descend so steeply into the lake that it was necessary to carry the road through tunnels excavated in the solid rock. 9 m. from Colico is

*Bellano*, at the mouth of the *Piovara*, the stream from the *Val Sassina*, a beautiful valley, through which the pedestrian who has already seen the lake may reach Lecco in 6 or 7 hrs., passing *Introbio*, the principal village of the valley, where there is a tolerable *Inn*. On the slope of the mountain above Bellano, and about 500 ft. above the lake, is the *Hydropathic Establishment* of *Regoledo*, much frequented both by Milanese and by foreigners. It is said to be well conducted.

*Varenna* (*Inn*, Albergo Marconi, on lake, good and clean), the best stopping place on the E. side of the lake. Visit the remarkable galleries near it, excavated in the solid rock, to allow that magnificent *Road* to the *Stelvio Pass* to traverse the E. shore of the lake. Pleasant walks up the mountain behind, to the Castle, to Perleda, and along the brow of the hill to the Cascade Fiume de Latte—extensive view.

A very interesting expedition for a mountaineer is the ascent of the *Grigna* or *Monte Codino* (7986 ft.), the

rugged range which in tier over tier of dolomite precipices overhangs the S.E. branch of the lake, commonly called the Lago di Lecco. It is scarcely possible to find the way without a guide, as the mountain is not seen for a great part of the way. The best plan is to go first from Varenna to the village of Esine, and there inquire for a shepherd boy who knows the mountain and will serve as guide. The way to the summit presents the utmost variety of beautiful and wild scenery. Food should be taken, as none will be found, and it is not too much to allow 13 or 14 hrs., inclusive of stoppages. An easier but less interesting way to reach the summit is by ascending the steep eastern side from near Introbbio. It would be best to combine both, ascending from Introbbio, and descending to Varenna; but it would not be easy to find a guide acquainted with both sides of the mountain.

Steamers ply on the S.E. branch, or Lake of Lecco, only on Saturdays, but the scenery will be more fully enjoyed from a boat. The character of this part of the lake is very different from the rest, being far wilder and more rugged.

About half-way to Lecco is *Mandello*, at the mouth of a torrent descending from the Grigna. By following this torrent an enterprising cragsman may reach the summit of the mountain, but it is not an excursion for ordinary travellers. About 15 Eng. m. from Varenna is

LECCO. (See HANDBOOK FOR NORTHERN ITALY.)

ROUTE 117.

ARONA TO VARALLO, IN THE VAL SESIA.

	Eng. m.
Arona.	
Borgománero . . . . .	6
Romagnano . . . . .	7½
Borgo Sesia . . . . .	7½
Varallo . . . . .	6

Altogether 5 hours' drive from Arona to Varallo—omnibus daily.

*Borgománero* is a large well-built town in the direct road to Vercelli and Turin, from Arona. [From Borgománero (no post-horses) a good carriage road runs through the village of Gozzano to *Buccione*, a village at the head of the lake of Orta, which may be reached in an hour from Borgománero. A road has also been made from Arona to Orta, avoiding the détour by Borgománero. The scenery on the road, especially the approach to the lake of Orta (Rte. 118), is very fine. At Buccione boats may be had to Omegna at the lower end of the lake, distant 9 m.; or to Orta.]

From *Borgománero* there is an excellent road to the little town of *Romagnano* on the Sesia (*Inn, La Posta*), remarkable as the spot where Bayard—*sans peur et sans reproche*—received his death-wound while protecting the rear of the French under Bonnivet in their retreat across the Alps, April 20, 1524. From *Romagnano* the road up the course of the Sesia is singularly beautiful; the mountains as they are approached offer richly wooded slopes, and the masses are relieved by castles, churches, and oratories. The vegetation is most luxuriant; several villages are passed.

The principal place before arriving at *Varallo* is *Borgo Sesia*, just above the junction of the *Strona*, on which stream lies *Val Duggia*, birthplace of Gaudenzio Ferrari, the painter. Here the valley becomes narrower, and the road offers some striking scenes, though the range of view is more limited. It opens again in the neighbourhood of

*Varallo. Inns*: Albergo d'Italia—good; dinner, 3½ fr.; bed, 2 fr.; breakfast, 1½ fr. *La Poste*, fine view, equally good. *Falcone Nero*, an Italian trattoria. There is need of many inns to provide for the bodily wants of the pilgrim visitors to the *Sacro Monte*, who, especially on the Festas of the Church, crowd here as devotees. The situation of this town, and the sanctuary on its celebrated *Sacro Monte*—*La Nuova Gerusalemme nel Sacro Monte di Varallo*, as the guide-book calls this extraordinary place of pilgrimage—present singular and interesting scenes, which no one who has the means should neglect to visit. Its old houses and richly wooded slopes form a tableau that few sketchers fail to possess.

The \**Sacro Monte* rises immediately above the town, and is accessible by a paved path, which winds up the side of the hill, and offers from every turn picturesque and beautiful scenes.

In the fine *Ch. of S. Francisco*, at the

foot of the *S. Monte*, are some admirable works by *Gaudenzio Ferrari*, a native of *Val Duggia*, on the *Strona*, a pupil and companion of Raphael, executed after his return from Rome, 1510-13. The whole wall dividing the nave from the choir (the passage from one to the other being only through a small arch) is painted by him in fresco, in 19 compartments, representing events in our Saviour's history—the central and largest being the Crucifixion. They are all most carefully executed, and are among the best works of the master, serving to illustrate his position in Italian art. In a side chapel (rt.) are also 2 frescoes by him—the Circumcision and the Dispute with the Doctors; not so good. In the cloister is a *Pietà*; and in the Sacristy a Virgin and saints, on wood, by Giovenone his master, much injured.

In the *Ch. of St. Gaudenzio* is a fine altarpiece on panel by G. Ferrari.

The hill of the *Sacro Monte* is covered with a series of 50 chapels or oratories, containing groups of figures modelled in terra-cotta, painted and clothed. They chiefly represent some of the principal events in the history of Christ, in the order of their occurrence. These structures are never entered; they are merely frames or cases for the subjects grouped within them, seen from 2 or 3 peep-holes in front, like those in the raree-shows. As works of art the greater number are very indifferent. A few, on the contrary, by Gaudenzio and his pupils, contain works of the highest merit, and to these the attention of every traveller of taste is specially invited. He will be sorry to miss them as he might easily do, in passing rapidly along the mass of rubbish. Externally, these oratories are rich in the architectural display of façades, porticos, domes, &c.: the figures within are the size of life.

The subjects are in the order of the numbers of the chapels.

1. The Fall of Man. Adam and Eve are seen amidst animals of all

sorts and sizes, from the elephant to the rabbit.

2. The Annunciation. The series which refer to Christ commences.
3. The Visitation.
4. The Angel announcing to Joseph the Miraculous Conception.
5. The Magi and Star of the East, by Gaudenzio and his pupils.
6. The Nativity.
7. Joseph and Mary adoring Christ.
8. The Presentation in the Temple.
9. The Angel advising Joseph to fly into Egypt.
10. The Flight.
- 11.\*The Murder of the Innocents. One of the large compositions contains above 60 figures, the size of life, besides the painted groups on the walls; so arranged as to assist the composition.
12. The Baptism in the Jordan.
13. The Temptation.
14. Christ and the Woman of Samaria.
15. Christ Curing the Paralytic.
16. Christ Raising the Widow's Son.
17. The Transfiguration. This oratory, by Pietro Petera, a native of Val Sesia, the largest of all, perhaps 100 ft. high, is represented upon an enormous scale; the group in the foreground contains the demoniac boy; on the mountain, an immense modelled mass, are the three disciples; above them Christ, with Moses and Elias; over these, painted on the walls and ceiling of the dome, are the host of heaven; and above all, the Almighty.
18. The Raising of Lazarus.
19. The Entrance into Jerusalem.
20. The Last Supper.
21. Christ in the Garden.
22. Christ finds his Disciples Sleeping.
23. Christ betrayed by Judas.
24. Christ in the House of Anna.
25. Christ in the Hands of Caiaphas.
26. The Repentance of St. Peter.
27. Christ in the House of Pilate.
28. Christ in the House of Herod.
29. Christ Reconducted to Pilate.

30. The Flagellation.
31. Christ Crowned with Thorns.
32. Christ again conducted to Pilate.
33. Christ shown to the People.
34. Pilate Washing his Hands.
35. Christ sentenced to Death.
36. Christ Bearing the Cross.
37. Christ Nailed to the Cross.
- 38.\*\*The Crucifixion.

The paintings on the walls and ceiling of this chapel are the masterpiece of Gaudenzio Ferrari. The chief subject, a splendid composition, including 60 or 70 figures, is in good preservation. Observe the soft beauty of the group of females and children.

39. Christ taken down from the Cross.
40. The Pietà—the Women around the Body of Christ. This was the earliest work of G. Ferrari. The frescoes, now much injured, were painted when he was but nineteen. The original modelled figures have been removed, and others substituted.
41. The Body wrapped in Linen.
42. San Francesco.
43. Christ Lying in the Sepulchre.
44. Saint Anna.
45. An Angel announcing to the Virgin Mary her Translation to Heaven.
46. The Sepulchre of the Virgin Mary.

All the walls are painted, and many of the pictures are masterly productions, not unworthy of the reputation of *Pelegriano Tibaldi*, whose name is found in the list of those who were employed upon the works of the *Sacro Monte di Varallo*; together with that of *Gaudenzio Ferrari*, *Fiummingo* the famous sculptor of children, and many other artists of eminence, as painters, sculptors, and architects. The valleys of the *Novarese*, of which *Val Sesia* is the principal, are remarkable for the number of painters they have produced, and the names of many are preserved here as having contributed to the embellishment of this singular sanctuary.

Much effect is produced by the

appropriate situation of some of the subjects. The access to the place where Christ is laid in the sepulchre is by a vault, where little light is admitted; and as it is difficult on entering from the open day to distinguish at first any object, the effect is very imposing.

Many of the figures are clothed in real drapery, and some have real hair, which appears very grotesque, yet full of character and expression; many of the heads are finely modelled. In the subject of the Visitation the head of a female is strikingly fine. The executioners conducting to Calvary, or otherwise employed in inflicting suffering on Christ, are, to increase the disgust for their characters, modelled with goitres appended to their throats.

The Sacro Monte originated in the piety of the blessed (i. e. half saint) Bernardino Caimo, or Coloto, a noble Milanese, who obtained in 1486, from Pope Innocent VIII, a faculty to found this sanctuary. Only 3 or 4 chapels were built in the time of the founder, but after two visits paid to it by St. Carlo Borromeo in 1578 and 1584, the prestige of the spot for sanctity soon increased so, that princes and rich devotees contributed to make it what it now is. The pallet *bedstead*, upon which the patron saint of Milan died, is preserved here as a holy relic for the veneration of the faithful.

The convent, where the priests reside, in a beautiful situation, commands views of Varallo and the Val Sesia below the town. At the entrance to the Oratories, booths or shops are established for the sale of *corone*, i. e. beads, crucifixes, *madonnas*, &c., which have acquired sanctity by having touched the blessed bed of the holy St. Carlo, or other miracle-working relics.

Near Varallo are nickel - mines worked by an English company.

The population of the Val Sesia is about 35,000; most of the men leave the valley and find employment elsewhere as masons, builders, &c.

There is good trout-fishing in the river.

The *Ponte della Gula*, about 1 hr.'s walk up the Val Mastalone, is a remarkable scene; the green river hemmed in by vertical rocks 150 ft. high, is spanned by a lofty bridge. A good carriage-road goes to the village of Ferrera. (See Rte. 123.) Omnibus twice a day from Varallo to Novara Stat.

## ROUTE 118.

BAVENO TO VARALLO, BY THE LAKE OF ORTA, OR BY VAL STRONA—MONTE MOTTERONE.

	b. m.	
Baveno to Gravellona	1 23	} 4 hrs. 18 m.
Omegna . . . . .	1 0	
Orta . . . . .	1 56	

The lake of Orta may be reached from Baveno, either by ascending the Motterone (Rte. 111), and descending from thence to Orta, a walk or ride of 6½ hrs., or by the carriage-road

8 m. to *Omegna* (*Inn, Poste*), at the N. end of the lake. From Omegna to Orta there is a good road (7 m.) along the E. shore of the lake. A boat with one rower costs 2 fr. The route by the Val Strona is taken from Omegna.

*Monte Motterone*. Asses (poor beasts) are kept for the ascent. The mule-path from Baveno up the *Motterone*, passing through woods of chestnut-trees during the lower part of



the ascent, is carried over a neck of the mountain a long way below the summit, which is reached by a steep climb up the grassy slope. At the base of the ascent are several dairy-farms or *châlets* (Alpe delle Volpe), where the traveller can obtain refreshment in the shape of excellent cream, milk, cheese, &c. It takes 2½ hrs. to descend to Orta: in fact, it requires nearly 7 hrs. to take this walk from Baveno to Orta and enjoy the view.

The view from the summit of the Monte Motterone (5100 ft.) is one of the most extensive on the S. declivity of the Alps. The Mont Blanc, the Combin, and the Mont Cervin, are hidden by the nearer hills of the Val Sesia and by the Monte Rosa. The line of snowy peaks to rt. of the latter, embracing Cima de Jazi, Fletschhorn, Monte Leone, and Bortelhorn, appears to great advantage. Farther E. rise the peaks and glaciers that lie on either side of the Bernardino and Splügen passes, and in the further distance the great mass of the Bernina Alps. Almost at his feet the traveller sees 5 lakes—the Maggiore, the Lake of Orta, those of Monato, Comabbio, and Varese; and still farther to the rt. the great plain of Lombardy and of Piedmont, studded with innumerable villages, with Milan in the centre, whose cathedral is distinctly visible. The two great tributaries of the Po, the Sesia and the Ticino, appear like silver ribbons traversing the dark ground of the plain, and the distant Apennines of Parma and Modena close this unrivalled panorama to the S., whilst the plain of Lombardy stretches afar to the E. till it is lost in the horizon.

If the weather be unfavourable for the view, the traveller may reach Orta without passing over the summit, and spare more than an hour's walk.

On the descent you pass the churches of Madonna di Luciago, Chieggeno, and Miasino, beyond which you strike the high road. The Sacro Monte may be visited before entering

Orta. (*Inns*: \*Albergo San Giulio, very good, comfortable and moderate; —Leone d'Oro is also a good little inn, beautifully situated at the water's edge). This town is delightfully placed on the borders of the lake, but upon the side of a steep declivity, so that the walks have the disadvantage of being always up and down hill. The facilities for shooting in the neighbouring mountains and forests, and for fishing, boating, and bathing in the lake, offer inducements for a short stay in this cool and delicious retirement. The charming villa of Count Natta has beautiful gardens above the town.

The Monte Sacro, on the summit of a lofty promontory projecting into the lake, is a sanctuary, dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi, approached by 22 chapels or oratories, like those of Varallo. Some are elegant in their architecture; and they contain, as at Varallo, groups in terra-cotta, of which at least seven are good works of art. The hill is laid out like a garden, a character which peculiarly belongs to the mountain slopes which surround this lake, and whence probably its name is derived. The magnolia and cactus are seen growing in the open air. The views from the hill of the sanctuary are of singular beauty, comprising the lake, the proximate mountains covered with wood, villages which speckle the shores of the lake and the sides of the hills, and the whole surmounted by the Alps. Aug. 2 to 9 is a grand fête.

It was the plan of General Chasseloup to continue the great route of the Simplon along the shores of the lake of Orta; but the difference of level—Orta being 500 feet higher than lake Maggiore—induced the adoption of the line by Baveno. As mentioned in Rte. 117, Orta is within a moderate distance of the rly. stat. at Arona, from whence Turin, Genoa, or Milan are easily reached on the same day.

The *Isola di San Giulio* is an object of singular beauty in the lake; it lies between Orta and Pella. The church and village surmount a rock that

rises out of the deep lake; the bright buildings on it contrast with the blue waters with a fairy-like effect. *The church*, chiefly modernized, but retaining some old parts, was built on a spot rendered sacred by the retreat of San Giulio, in the 4th century; here his ashes are preserved in a vault; and the vertebra of a monstrous serpent (in reality bones of a whale), said to have been destroyed by the saint, is shown as a relic.

The church contains an old mosaic pavement and frescoes by *P. Tibaldi*; a side chapel rudely painted by an unknown master, 1486; another entirely by *Gaudenzio Ferrari*, the chief subject the Virgin and Child enthroned, singularly graceful, but injured; above, the Martyrdom of St. Stephen; on the vaulted roof the 4 Doctors of the Western Church, with the Evangelistic symbols—interesting examples of the pure Lombard style; a curious pulpit, and bas-reliefs of St. G. driving out snakes from the island. *Guilla*, the wife of Beranger II., king of Lombardy, took refuge on the island in 962, and defended it resolutely against Otho I., emperor of Germany, who had invaded Italy and deposed her husband. Otho restored the island to the bishops of Novara, who had long held it before it was seized by Beranger.

*Omnibus* to Arona, by Buccione, to Gozzano Stat., whence trains to Novara, in 1½ hr.

*Orta to Varallo*—boat to Pella—5 hrs.

At *Pella*, the village on the W. shore near to the Isola Giulio, asses may be hired for crossing the *Colma* to Varallo, 4½ hrs.; a ride of great interest, from the beautiful sites and views which it offers, which cannot be too much recommended. A steep path leads up the mountain side to Arola amidst the richest vegetation; vines, figs, gourds, and fruit-trees. The views looking back upon the Lago d'Orta are superb. Magnificent forest-trees offer their shade, and the road in some places passes amidst precipices of granite in a state of decomposition; here many of the specimens sold at

Baveno are obtained. Above these granitic masses the path continues through scenes resembling the most beautiful park scenery of England, and then opens upon the *Col de Colma*, a bushy common, where wide and pleasing views are presented of the lakes of Orta, Maggiore, and the plains of Lombardy, and, towards the Alps, of Monte Rosa.

The descent on the other side is not less beautiful. The Val Sesia is seen in the deep distance, richly wooded and studded with churches and villages; the path leads down through pastoral scenes, which sometimes recall the most agreeable recollections of home to an English traveller; then changes almost suddenly to the deep gloom of a ravine, where there are quarries, formerly worked for the buildings of Varallo, buried in a forest of enormous walnut and chestnut trees. Issuing from this wild spot, the traveller shortly finds himself in the Val Sesia at Rocco, about 1 mile from

*Varallo*. See Rte. 117.

A shorter road turns rt. about 150 yards beyond the top of the Col—leaving Rocco on the l., and joins the old road about ½ m. from Varallo.

[The route from Omegna to Varallo by the *Val Strona* involves a considerable circuit, but the scenery will amply compensate the traveller for his extra labour. The distance might be accomplished in one day by an active pedestrian, but it is a better plan to sleep at Fobello, where there is a good country inn.]

*Omegna* (Inn, tolerable), at the N. end of lake of Orta, where the stream from it is joined by the Strona torrent as it issues from the mountains. The *Val Strona* is a narrow glen whose steep sides are clothed with fine forest trees and a beautiful and varied vegetation. A rough paved path, in some parts rather steep, ascends the valley, which winds much, and at every turn presents new pictures of exquisite beauty. After passing the villages of *Strona* and *Forno*, the last in the valley is reached, *Campello*, a charming object for the painter, but not offering good quarters

to the tourist. The ascent of the *Col di Campello* commences immediately above the village, and presents no difficulty. It is a pass of no great height (about 6000 ft.), over the ridge which separates the Val Strona from the Val Mastalone. The Monte Rosa, whose 8 summits, rising like turrets from the prodigious inaccessible wall which forms its eastern face, are from 12 to 14 m. distant, presents one of the grandest views to be seen in the Alps. A tolerably correct view is given in Mr. King's 'Italian Valleys.' A steep descent leads to the German village of *Rimella* in the Val Mastalone. Accommodation may be had here, but it is better to push on to

*Fobello*, where there is a very good country Inn, H. d'Italie. The route from thence to Varallo is given in Rte. 123.

[Another way from Omegna to Varallo, rather longer and more laborious than the ordinary route by the Col di Colma, but much shorter than that by the Val Strona, is, by the village of *Quarna*, and from thence over the *Monte Mazzuccone* to *Camasco*. This mountain is a somewhat enlarged edition of the *Motterone*, which lies a few miles farther E. It lies nearer to the Monte Rosa, but is not so centrally placed in regard to the lakes. By this route Omegna is about 6 hrs. walk from Varallo.]

## ROUTE 119.

## VARALLO TO ALAGNA. THE VAL SESIA.

	Hrs.	Eng. m.
Varallo.		
Piode . . . .	4	= 12
Mollia . . . .	2	= 6
Riva . . . .	2	= 6
Alagna . . . .	†	= 14

There is a good carriage-road as far as Mollia. Mules may be had at that village. A side-saddle may be procured at Varallo, but not farther up the valley. *Diligence* twice daily from Mollia to the Rlwy.

The Val Sesia offers scenes of less rugged grandeur than some of its lateral valleys; but in its course many of great beauty are passed, chiefly rendered so by the fine wooding of the slopes, the grand forms of the trees, and the sometimes tranquil, often furious course of the Sesia. The villages of *Balmuccia* and *Scopa* (a clean Inn, kept by Giuseppe Topino) are passed, and the wild *Val Sermenta*, called also Val Piccola, opens on the rt.

At *Scopello* (Inn: indifferent, charges extortionate) there are many smelting houses, where the copper ore, already washed and crushed, is reduced. About 50 tons are raised annually at Alagna. Chars can be obtained from Scopello to Varallo, 7½ fr.; 2 hrs.

There is not much variation in the scenery, though the whole is pleasing. The route passes *Piode* (no Inn), *Campertogno*, and

*Mollia* (a clean little Inn, Alb. Valsessiano) to

*Riva* (Inn: Le Pietre Gemelle, small but fair), the chief of the high villages in the valley; picturesque from a distance, but poor and comfortless. Within the district known as the Val Sesia there are reckoned 2 bourgs and 30 villages, evidence of a thickly populated country in the valleys of the Alps. Riva is situated at the confluence of the torrents of the Dobbia and the Sesia.

The *church of Riva* will surprise the traveller by its structure, its excessive decoration, and the real talent with which it is painted within and without, chiefly by one of the numerous painters whom the Val Sesia has produced—Tanzio, or Antonio d'Enrico, a native of Alagna. The external paintings have a remarkable freshness, though they have existed more than 200 years, exposed to the weather in this high valley.

The view of Monte Rosa from Riva is very sublime; its enormous masses, clothed in glaciers, close the head of the Val Sesia, and offer a scene of extraordinary grandeur.

About half a league above it is

*Alagna*, a poor place, but agreeably situated. The *Inn* (Paolis, H. de Monte Rosa, fair, and civil people) is the best in the Val Sesia.

For passes and excursions from Alagna see Rte. 124.

and the following routes should be taken from the Italian or the Swiss side. The Val Anzasca is certainly seen to greater advantage by the traveller who ascends the valley with Monte Rosa facing him all the way. But the effect of the unrivalled view from the summit of the Moro is enhanced by the abruptness with which it is presented to him who arrives from the Swiss side at the summit, and the views in descending the Moro towards the Val Anzasca are finer than on the side of Saas. In either case, the only way to do justice to the unequalled attractions of this valley is to make a halt of one or more days. It is decidedly more practicable for ladies to cross the Moro from Saas than from Macugnaga, as in the first case they may ride very nearly to the top of the pass.

The *Val Anzasca* leads directly up to Monte Rosa; it combines all that is most lovely in Italian, with all that is most grand in Swiss scenery. It is a Chamouny, of which the sides are covered with vines, figs, chesnuts, and walnuts, with the sky of Italy above, and the architecture of Italy around you. It is easily accessible by those not equal to hard mountain expeditions, and the *Inns* are greatly improved.

Travellers descending the Simplon road from Domo d'Ossola to Val Anzasca turn out of it  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S. of Pallanzeno, whence a road runs direct to Pié de Mulera. Those going N. from Baveno, cross the Tosa 1 m. N. of Vogogna by a bridge just above the influx of the Anza.

*Vogogna* (Rte. 111) is situated on the Simplon-road,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  Eng. m. below Domo d'Ossola, at the confluence of the torrent of the Anza with the Tosa. Pedestrians may cross the Tosa by a ferry to Pié de Mulera from Vogogna.

*Pié de Mulera* (*Inn*: Croce Rossa), the first village in the Val Anzasca. Here lives the receiver of the gold and other mines situated near the head of the valley,

## ROUTE 121.

### VOGOGNA TO MACUGNAGA, BY THE VAL ANZASCA.

	Hrs.	Eng. m.
Vogogna.		
Ponte Grande . . .	3	9
Vanzone . . . . .	$\frac{3}{4}$	2
Macugnaga . . . .	$3\frac{1}{4}$	10

A good carriage-road from Vogogna, on the Simplon road, by Pié de Mulera, as far as Vanzone and Ceppo Morelli.— $7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Vogogna to Macugnaga—6 hrs. returning.

Mules are to be had at Ponte Grande.

It is difficult to decide whether this

The road ascends, and traverses two short tunnels in the rock. It is carried high up along the vine-clad slopes, and commands a noble view downward over the Val d'Ossola and upwards towards Monte Rosa which comes into sight soon after entering the valley, and which gives an indescribable finish to the distance, while the rich valley, sending out wooded hills from either side, forms a magnificent foreground. The unrivalled prospect is seen to great advantage just before reaching

*Castiglione* (*Inn*: Au Rameau). The road leaves *rt. Calasca* (*Inn* tolerable), near which there is a pretty waterfall bursting out of the Val Bianca, then descends to the Anza, and runs some distance along its banks.

*Ponte Grande* (Albergo al Ponte Grande, large, with a fine view; clean, comfortable, and reasonable. This is the chief place in the Val Anzasca, and is the best position for a halt of a few days; *mules* may be hired here only. It is a considerable village with a post-office, in a beautiful position at the junction of the Val Olloccia with the Anza, receives its name from a *bridge* of a single arch across the Anza.

*Vanzone*. (*Inns*: H. des Chasseurs, kept by Albasini, has only one decent bedroom and one common room.) The 2 *Churches*, one opening out of the other, are worth visiting. See the view from the terrace in front of the chapel, a little above the town. Here, and elsewhere in Val Anzasca, the neat dress of the women, the general cleanliness of the people, their cheerfulness and independence, and the rareness of goitre, will be remarked with pleasure, as contrasting with other parts of Piedmont. There are few spots in the Alps better deserving a halt of some days than this part of the Val Anzasca.

At the small village of Gruppo, *obs.* a remarkably fine *lime-tree*.

*Ceppo Morelli*. (*Inn*: H. de Alpes, though small, can furnish a tolerable bed or luncheon.) Here is a remarkable

*bridge*, very steep, springing on one side from a boulder stone. A little way above this is one of the finest views in the valley; the vast height of Monte Rosa may be fully appreciated from hence, as it towers upwards into the sky. The women in the upper part of the valley carry burthens like men, and adopt lower garments usually considered peculiar to male attire.

[At *Prequartero* a path branches off (*rt.*) into the Saas-Thal by Prebenone, nearer than that by the Moro, but without its fine views of Monte Rosa. The guides take it as a short cut in returning.]

A spur descending from the Monte della Caccia, called the Morgen, here divides the Val Anzasca from the Val Macugnaga or Pestarena. The distinction is further marked by the languages spoken by the people; above this German prevails, below it Italian. This vast mass of mountain nearly closing up the valley, is cleft by a deep and savage gorge for the Anza to escape.

At *Campiole*, where the river issues out of the gorge, it is crossed to the *rt.* bank, and the path is carried in a very steep ascent over this rocky barrier: it next descends rapidly and returns to the *l.* bank by the Ponte del Valt. It is proposed to carry the char-road up to

*Pestarena* (*Inn*: Alb. dei Minieri, tolerable, rough accommodation, but civil people, and moderate), a miserable village, whose inhabitants earn their livelihood in the mines of gold, silver, and copper. The gold occurs in very small quantities, combined with (pyrites) sulphuret of iron. The ore is pounded and ground, and the metal is obtained from it by amalgamation in the proportion of 6 grammes, or at the best 10, of gold to 100 kilogrammes of ore. The annual produce is said to be about 2700 oz. There are not many places in Piedmont where gold is found. Brockedon, in consequence, has conjectured that this valley was the seat of the Ictymuli mentioned by

Pliny, and traces their name in that of the villages Pié and Cima de Mul-era.

The road ascends steeply, passing the adits of many mines ; it is crossed by numerous mountain-torrents, which cut it up, or cover it with stony rubbish, rendering the ascent toilsome.

In ascending the valley 35 min. above Pestarena, the traveller comes on the very magnificent view of Monte Rosa, at a village called *Bourge*, or

*Borca* (no good inn here) about 2 m. below Macugnaga. Game—chamois, marmot, black-cock, and ptarmigan—abound in the valley.

At Borca and above it German is the language of the people.

The path over the *Col de Turlo* to Alagna and the Val Sesia (Rte. 124) diverges here l.

The commune which bears the name of *Macugnaga* consists of six different hamlets, Pestarena, Borgo, in der Stapf, zum Strich, auf der Rive, and Zertannen. Borca is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s walk from Pestarena, and as far from the rest, which lie only a few minutes' walk apart from one another.

*Macugnaga* (Zum Strich). (Inns: Hôtel du Mont Moro, fair mountain quarters, clean, and civil people; cuisine good; kept by Gaspard Delmonte.—Osteria di Monte Rosa, by Franz Lochmatter; good sleeping accommodation, kindly people. Mules are not to be had here, but must be ordered from Ponte Grande.)—This place cannot be too strongly recommended for a sojourn of several days, in order to enjoy the exquisite scenery around. This village, 4369 ft. above the sea, has a small ancient *Church*, with a lime-tree close beside it, and stands in a grassy plain or luxuriant meadow, studded with hamlets, some of them almost touching the glaciers. The best guide here for difficult expeditions is Franz Lochmatter, landlord of the Monte Rosa inn. Gaspard and his man Baptiste know the neighbourhood well; and there are several other guides

competent to conduct a party to the glacier or over the Monte Moro.

Above the village, the river Anza issues out of a grand arch of ice in the glacier of Monte Rosa.

*Excursions from Macugnaga*.—The great object of a visit to Macugnaga is the view of MONTE ROSA, which is not surpassed, if it can be equalled, by any scene in the Alps or elsewhere in the world. The excursions usually followed by the local guides are not the best that could be chosen, and the traveller is recommended to adopt the following, as affording the best facilities for enjoying the magnificent scenery of the head of the valley. A good guide is wanted, and he will know the route when he is told the general direction in which the excursion is to be made. It can only be performed on foot, but is not particularly fatiguing; it will occupy about 8 or 9 hrs.

*First*.—Ascend the meadows of the valley above Macugnaga, and then, after crossing the Anza, mount the steep wooded hill called the *Belvedere*, against which the great glacier descending from Monte Rosa divides into two ice-streams. This is one of the finest points of view; and those who are not inclined to make the whole tour may return from hence to Macugnaga. Ladies can ascend to this point part of the way on mules in 2 hrs.; Gaspard will even convey them in a chaise-à-porteur.

*Second*.—Cross the north arm of the glacier to the chalets of Jazi, a passage attended with no danger and very little difficulty, although the edges of the ice are much encumbered with moraines. From thence walk up the valley to the chalets of Filar, situated at the foot of the northernmost peak of Monte Rosa, called the Nord End, and just below the *Old Weiss Thor Pass*.

*Third*.—Ascend the steep moraine, enter upon the great glacier, and proceed for some distance towards the head of the valley. This is difficult, the ice being considerably crevassed, but with a guide accustomed to glaciers there is no danger. The cre-

**Abstract**

Tests More  
Easy

vasses diminish after some distance has been traversed, and the glacier becomes more even. The traveller may pursue it as far as his inclination leads him, but a convenient goal is a singular waterfall, where a considerable stream precipitates itself into a great chasm in the ice, with a roaring which may be heard at some distance. The view from this spot is exceedingly striking, the observer being in the midst of the arena of a vast amphitheatre, whose snow-clad walls are formed of some of the highest mountains in Europe. Commencing on the east, are seen the Pizzo Bianco, and Cima del Pizzo, from which a snow-sheeted ridge leads to the great central group of *Monte Rosa*, whose precipitous sides descend immediately

down some 7000 or 8000 feet in one almost unbroken slope to the very edge of the glacier on which the traveller stands. Avalanches of great magnitude are often seen to fall on this slope, accompanied with a noise like thunder. From the summits of Monte Rosa another ridge extends northwards to the Cima di Jazi, and then on, bending eastwards to the pass of Monte Moro, which is well seen.

*Fourth.*—Leave the glacier on its eastern edge, and descend the steep and high moraine to the châteaux of Pedriolo, near which may be seen some enormous fragments of rock that have probably fallen from the Pizzo Bianco immediately above; one of these is 500 feet in circumference, and about 120 feet high; they are pro-



bably the largest blocks detached in this way that can be found in the Alps.

*Fifth.*—From Pedriolo a return track leads along the rocks on the south side of the valley, often at a great height, and commanding fine scenery; and a steep and intricate descent brings the traveller back to Macugnaga.

The whole of this excursion abounds with the most magnificent views, presenting the most wonderful amphitheatre in every direction to the eye. It is a finer scene than any of the views of Mont Blanc, as no similar advantage of position for the spectator can be there obtained.

A few words on the topography of Monte Rosa may not be out of place here. It is by no means a single summit, but a *knot* or union of two ridges or chains crossing each other at right angles, E. and W., and N. and S.; so that its ground-plan may be said to resemble a +. The N.E. angle forms the head of the Val Anzasca, and encloses the glacier of Macugnaga, as the N.W. does that of Zermatt: the S.E. is the head of the Val Sesia, and the S.W. under the Lyskamm is the cradle of the glacier of the Lys, and head of the valley of Gressoney.

The four principal summits are ranged along the north ray of the cross, and are all visible from Macugnaga. Beginning at the left hand, or south end, the first is the *Signal Kuppe*; the next, a snowy pinnacle, the *Zumstein Spitze*; the third, a tremendous rocky tooth, the *Höchste Spitze*, or highest point, being 15,223 English feet above the sea; and the fourth, or most northerly, the *Nord end*. The difference in height of these four summits is little more than 200 feet, from the highest to the lowest. See also Rte. 127.

The pass from Macugnaga to Zermatt, formerly known as the *Weiss Thor*, lay between the Cima de Jazi and the Nord End of Monte Rosa. It was occasionally passed by some of

the bolder cragsmen among the natives at either side, but was never a frequented pass. It is well known that precipitous rocks often look more formidable than they really are; but even the most practised mountaineer, after looking at the prodigious height and steepness of the rocky range which overhangs the Macugnaga Glacier, might hesitate before attempting to scale it. For many years past the guides at Zermatt and Macugnaga have asserted that the old pass is no longer practicable, owing to the accumulation of ice over the edge of the precipice, yet it was certainly traversed by M. Adolphe Schlagintweit in 1851, and by English travellers in 1852 or 1853, and the same or a parallel pass by Prof. Tyndall, and by others more lately. The New Weiss Thor Pass is described in Rte. 127.

## ROUTE 122.

### MACUGNAGA TO VISP—MONTE MORO—SAAS.

	Hrs.
Macugnaga.	
Summit of Moro Pass . . . . .	4
Mattmarksee . . . . .	2
Saas . . . . .	2½
Stalden . . . . .	3½
Visp . . . . .	1½

The pass of the Moro is the least difficult over the great chain between the Great St. Bernard and the Simplon: still it is not practicable for horses, though there are traces of an old paved horse-road, by which the mail was carried to Milan before the Simplon was opened. In the 16th centy. the Moors guarded the passes

of the Pennine chain, by a convention with Count Hago of Provence, and levied black-mail on their own account. The 3 great passes in those days were the St. Bernard, the Monte Moro, and the Engadine. Of the former we have no other local memory besides Mt. Mort (Maure); but in the two others we have several—for instance, the name *Mt. Moro* itself; *Calasca* (Kal'ah, "a castle"—viz. the *alcalas* and *calatas* in Spain and Sicily); the hamlet *Morghen*; *Almagel* (Al-mahal, "the station"); *Matmark* (formerly *Mat mar*, "the Moor's meadow"); *Eyen* (Äin, "a fountain"); *Distel Alp* (?); *Alalein* (Alâ l'ain, "over the source"—a very graphic name for its position in reference to the ice cataract and the Visp torrent; *Almagel* (?); *Mischabel* (pronounced like "Mi-gebel," *Mont Gibello*); *Balfrin*, "the peak with 2 sources." The ascent on the S. side is too fatiguing for most ladies; but they may take a *chaise à porteur* at Macugnaga. Five porters are required.

The ascent is very abrupt, and the traveller rises rapidly above the little plain and village of Macugnaga. The path lies at first through a straggling forest, but the Alps or pasturages are soon attained, and the scene thence presented is most magnificent—all the masses of Monte Rosa are open to the view, from its peaks, still thousands of feet above you, to the basin of Macugnaga, now thousands of feet below. Such a scene cannot be conceived, and once seen can never be forgotten. From the high pasturages the path traverses a stony and barren slope to the snow which it is necessary to cross. On the summit, amidst a heap of stones, a cross is placed, and the traveller looks down on the other side of the mountain towards the Valais, and into a scene of sterility which has no relief.

It is well worth while to ascend a point E. of the summit of the pass, called the *Joderhorn*. The view of Monte Rosa is not finer, for, in truth, that cannot be surpassed, but the eye is enabled to contrast it with

the distant view over the plain of N. Italy and the southern ranges of the Alps. Without going so far, you may extend the range by mounting the rocks behind the wooden cross, from whence you gain the view of Monte Rosa on one hand, and of the whole extent of the Saas valley on the other.

The summit of the pass of the *Monte Moro* is 9640 English feet (*Forbes*) above the sea. The descent to Saas is singularly easy and pleasant. There is a steep bed of snow crossed at first, but afterwards a gentle fall leads down the whole way to Visp. On the l. rises the *Saasgrat*, a lofty chain of snowy peaks, separating the valley of Saas from that of Zermatt. The path soon reaches the ancient paved road which has been cut out of the face of the precipices, and overhangs a deep hollow into which the glaciers which stream down from the surrounding peaks seem to be poured. The spot is one of the most desolate in the Alps. At length the paved road is left, and no vestige can be traced of it: it has been destroyed by the masses which have fallen from the precipices above.

The path now winds down the vast talus formed by these repeated falls of rocks, to reach the scanty herbage of the highest pasturages. From below it is impossible to trace any path, or even in what direction the path lies, by which the descent has been made.

The pass of the Moro, and another across the glaciers on the rt. into the Val Antrona, are mentioned in an old record of the date of 1440 as "*fort vieux passages*," and great expenses were incurred in 1724, and again in 1790, in the endeavour to restore them, in order to facilitate the conveyance of salt and other articles of commerce, but the new repairs were soon destroyed by avalanches.

The *débris* of fallen mountains, and the enormous glaciers which surround the traveller, give a fearful impression of desolation.

The *châlets* of *Distel* furnish milk, cheese, and eggs, but they are deserted early in the autumn.

[From Distel a difficult path crosses the mountains into the Val Antrona, a valley that debouches into the Val d'Ossola.]

From Distel the path continues on the rt. branch of the stream all the way to Saas. After quitting the *châlets*, the path leads down to a dreary dirty lake ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.) called the

*Mattmarksee*, formed by the melting of the glaciers. An *Inn* was built (1856) on this dreary spot; it is cheerless and not cheap, but clean, and kept by civil people. This is a convenient stopping-place for those approaching the Monte Moro from the N. They are enabled to shorten the journey to Macugnaga, and to reach the top of the pass  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. sooner, when the unrivalled view of Monte Rosa is less frequently obscured by mists. Still more advantageous is this resting-place to the more adventurous class of travellers who make it their starting-point for the passage of the Weiss Thor or the Adler Pass, and for the ascent of the Strahlhorn. The *Allalein glacier* bounds the lake on the N., in fact, dams the valley, and these waters accumulate within it. The view over it is grand; the colossal pyramids of cleft ice rising sheer against the sky. The stream of the Visp issues out of an ice-grotto at its extremity. In 1833 this outlet closed up, so that it required to be opened by blasting the ice. From the lower end of the lake the view of the adjoining portion of the range of the Saas Grat presents a scene of savage sublimity. It is necessary to skirt the dam of ice and descend below it—an affair of no great difficulty; the cattle are made to ascend and traverse it to reach their pasturages. From below, this barrier of ice appears effectually to close the valley.

From this barrier the path lies down the valley, still sterile and filled with rocks and stones: the rhododendron, however, and a little brushwood, give evidence of improved vegetation.

*Zurmegern* or *Zurmican*. From this village a path crosses the mountains on the E. side, and leads to Antrona.

*Allmagell*. Before reaching it, larches and pines are passed, but they are stunted from their great elevation. After crossing a little plain, a rugged path leads down by a hamlet, and the traveller passes under Mont Fée, whose bright snows, rising above a forest of pines, give a singularly beautiful appearance to the mountain.

Saas, or *Im Grund*, the principal commune of the valley. *Inns*: H. du Mont Moro, clean, but cuisine defective; H. du Mont Rosa.

Saas is a good resting-place, and is now much frequented by tourists. The parish priest, Herr Imseng, has acquired an almost European reputation for his skill in difficult passes, his adventurous spirit, his incredible powers of endurance at a somewhat advanced age, and his readiness to assist travellers. He has usually lived in the H. du Mont Rosa. Franz Andenmatten, Moritz Zurbrücken, and Joseph Venetz are good guides.

In approaching the Moro from the side of Saas it is possible to ride as far as Telliboden,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour above the Distel *châlets*; but, although the accommodation is better at Saas, those who wish to secure the view from the summit will prefer to sleep at the Mattmark See, only 2 hrs. from the top.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. are required from Saas.

Saas stands in a basin surrounded by an amphitheatre of mountains, which are not seen from the village, lower ranges intercepting the view. The plain of Saas is beautiful amidst the wild scenery which surrounds it: it is nearly 1 m. long, and its verdant meadows are refreshing to look upon after the sterility of the upper valley and the pass of the Moro.

A very interesting excursion of a few hours, which no one should omit, may be made from Saas to the valley and hamlet of Fée, lying in a short lateral valley, surrounded by lofty peaks. The head of the valley consists of an amphitheatre of glaciers, somewhat resembling the Cirques of the Pyrenees, but on a grander scale. The principal peaks are—to the S. the *Allalein*, ascended by Mr. Ames in 1856; then

the *Alphubel*; and, on the W. side, the two *Mischabelhorn*, the *Täschhorn*, and the *Dom*. The height of the latter is 14,935 ft., or 900 ft. higher than the *Finster-Aarhorn*; it is the highest mountain in Switzerland proper. It was first ascended in 1858 by the Rev. L. L. Davies. In the midst of the glaciers is a singular green spot, almost an island in the sea of ice, called the *Gletscher Alp*, 2 hrs. from Saas, which is used as a pasture in summer, when it is a perfect garden of wild flowers. It may usually be reached without crossing the glacier, but the path passes through a gorge between the 2 branches of the glacier with almost overhanging masses of ice on either hand, not more than 30 or 40 feet apart, and it should not be attempted without a good guide, blocks of ice frequently breaking off and falling across the path. From the head of the valley is a fine view, and the *Fée* glacier has retreated so as to leave a safe path. Mules can reach the foot of the pass.

There are two exceedingly difficult passes—the *Adler Joch*, or *Col Im-seng*, and the *Allelein Pass*, from Saas to Zermatt (Rte. 127).

East of Saas, the main chain, comprehending the *Fletschorn* and *Weissmies*, both exceeding 13,000 ft. in height, abounds in interest. One route N. of the *Fletschorn* descends midway between the hospice and village of *Simplon*: it must command magnificent views of the Bernese Alps. The *Fletschorn* itself was ascended in 1856 by the *Curé* and a party of English. There is another pass up the *Almagell* valley over the S. flank of the *Weissmies* (ascended in 1859 by Mr. *Hinchliff*), descending by *Zwischbergen* to *Gondo*: the descent, as seen from the *Simplon* road, appears to be very steep and very grand; probably the *Col* is a difficult one. A third pass leads to the *Val d'Antrona*, below *Domo d'Ossola*, up the *Furgge-thal*, a desolate and not picturesque valley high up in the mountain-side, above *Almagell*: the passage of the *Furgge* glacier offers no difficulty, and the descent to Piedmont is free from ice,

but very steep. There used to be a mule-road, of which portions still remain. North of the *Col*, and perhaps 1000 ft. higher, there is a point called the *Latelhorn*, which juts out like a belvedere, the main chain falling back right and left, and commands a most superb view over the entire range of the Alps from *Monte Rosa* to the *Tyrol*, with the subordinate ranges of *Piedmont*, *Tessin*, and *Lombardy*. This point is new; it is probably not above 10,000 ft., but easy of access, and commands a splendid view. Horses can go within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., or less, of the top; and the remainder of the ascent, except just the horn itself for some 200 ft., is easy. There are beds of snow, but no ice to cross. By a tolerable walker the excursion from Saas and back may be made in 10 hrs., allowing 1 hr. on the top, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. for refreshment. A high point at the head of the *Ofenthal*, 3 hrs. from the *Inn* at the *Mattmarksee*, is not difficult of access, and affords a glorious view!

From Saas, by *Stalden* to *Visp*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., is a good *bridle-path*.

The scenery is often extremely beautiful.

Below Saas the valley contracts and forms a defile, which enlarges into a little mountain-enclosed plain by the village of *Balen*, at the foot of the sharp-pointed snow-peak of the *Balfrin*, first ascended by Mr. and Mrs. *R. Watson*. The path here crosses and recrosses the *Vispach*. Near *H. Hu-teck* the valley closes into a narrow gorge, and the path is forced to mount high above the torrent. Many wooden crosses, the memorials of accidents from snow and avalanches, are passed. In  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Saas the valley suddenly enlarges at the junction of the *Saaser Vispach* with the main stream of the *Gorner Vispach* descending the *Matter Thal* from *Zermatt*. The path crosses the *Kinnbrücke*, a single arch 150 ft. above the stream, and reaches

*Stalden*, about 5 m. above *Visp*. (See Rtes. 59 and 127.)

## ROUTE 123.

VARALLO TO THE VAL ANZASCA, BY THE VAL MASTALONE, OR BY VAL SERMENTA.

There are 4 routes by which travellers may reach the Val Anzasca from Varallo, all much to be preferred to the pass of the Turlo. (Rte. 124.)

a. The easiest and perhaps the most beautiful route is through the *Val Mastalone*, and over the *Barranca Pass*. There is a good char-road from Varallo to *Ferrera* and *Fobello*. From thence *Ponte Grande* is reached in 8 or 10 hrs. steady walking. Mules can rarely be taken over the pass, but it is advisable to walk the descent on either side.

For the first league from Varallo the valley gradually contracts till the road reaches a remarkable gorge where the river, hemmed in by vertical rocks 150 ft. high, is spanned by a stone arch called the *Ponte della Gula*, too narrow for wheel-vehicles. A bridge has been constructed for the carriage-road, which was completed as far as *Ferrera* in 1858, and is now open to *Fobello*. The scenery for the entire distance is of the most exquisite character, the vegetation being even richer than in the *Val Sesia*. At about 10 m. from Varallo the valley divides, the rt. hand branch leading to *Rimella* (Rte. 118), the l. hand to

*Fobello*, where there is a very good country Inn, *H.d'Italie* (*Uchetta's*), the best in the valley. Landlord was cook in one of the great Turin hotels. This valley is the cradle of cooks, who migrate hence all over Europe. The upper end of the *Val Mastalone* is open and rather bare of foliage, and the ascent to the *Barranca Pass* is steep,

and not free from difficulty. The summit, (5740 ft.) where there is a small oratory, reached in 4 hrs. from *Fobello*, has some open undulating ground where the track from the *Col d'Egua* joins that leading from *Fobello*. This view is not improved by ascending the tempting hill l. of the *Col*. The descent towards the *Val Olloccia* is abrupt, and in parts steep, and the views over the *Val Anzasca* are magnificent. A mountaineer will have no great difficulty in finding his way, but may probably miss the path and lose time if without a guide. If a mule be taken it is essential to have some one well acquainted with the ground on both sides. The *Val Olloccia*, a tributary of the *Val Anzasca*, is one of the most richly-wooded of the southern valleys of the Alps, but for some years the axe has been at work, and much magnificent timber has already been felled.

*Ponte Grande* is reached in 3 hrs. from the summit. Here the traveller may now find tolerable quarters (*Alb. al Ponte Grande* (Rte. 121).

The village of *Banio* is on a height, 15 min. walk from *Ponte Grande*.

b. There is another pass from the *Val Mastalone* by the eastern or *Rimella* branch of the valley. It is rather more direct, but is said to be less easy. (See Rte. 118.)

c. Parallel to the *Val Mastalone* is another equally beautiful, called the *Val Sermenta*, or *Val Piccola*, to distinguish it from the *Val Grande*, or main valley of the *Sesia*. This joins the *Sesia* at the hamlet of *Balmuccia* about 6 m. from Varallo. The lower part of the *Val Sermenta* is very narrow and tortuous: a char-road is in progress as far as *Rimasco*. Passing the villages *Buccialetto* and *Ferretto*, for which the contracted valley scarcely affords space, in 2½ hrs. from *Balmuccia* the mule-path reaches

*Rimasco*, where there is a rude but tolerable Inn, with bath, kept by very civil people. This, the chief village in the valley, is situated just at the fork

where it divides into 2 branches; that on the l. hand leading through grand scenery to the German village of Rima, while the rt. hand branch leads to the Val Anzasca by Carcoforo.

[From Rima there are two, if not three, passes leading to Alagna, and there is another track mounting steeply to the westward, by which the Turlo pass is gained close to the summit of the ridge. (See Rte. 124.)]

Above Rimasco the valley becomes more wild and open, and in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the track reaches the last village—

*Carcoforo*, where there is a poor *Inn*, not very bad. From hence the traveller has the choice of 2 routes to the Val Anzasca, but even if bound for the head of that valley he will do better to take the Col d'Egua, leading to Ponte Grande, so as to enjoy the glorious walk from that village to Macugnaga.

The summit of the *Col d'Egua* (7060 ft.) may be reached in 2 hrs. from Carcoforo by a rather steep and continuous ascent. The summit, when clear, is said to command a very grand view, similar in character to that from the Col di Campello (Rte. 118). From the top there is a rapid descent over rough ground to the undulating ridge which forms the summit of the Baranca Pass above described. The track, which is ill-marked, joins that from Rimella close to the small oratory. The descent to Banio and Ponte Grande has been already described. Time from Carcoforo to Ponte Grande,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 hrs.

d. Travellers pressed for time, and wishing to reach Macugnaga in one long day from Varallo, may take a pass, which diverges from that last described, at the village of Carcoforo, about the same height, but more interesting than that of the Turlo (see Rte. 124). The ascent from Carcoforo is very steep; in ascending it takes more than 3 hrs. (in descending 2 hrs.) to reach the summit of the *Bocchetta di Carcoforo*. This commands a magnificent view of Monte Rosa and the Saas Grat. In descending there is

a faintly marked track along a steep slope until an abandoned mine (gold?) is reached. Below this the path descends into the short

*Val Quarazzola*, a branch of, or rather a recess in, the *Val Quarazza*, down which descends the path from the Turlo. The guides usually descend to Borca, but this is unnecessary, and there is a shorter track to Macugnaga by the S. side of the Anza. Time from Balmuccia, 10 hrs. steady walking, exclusive of halts.

The trout-fishing is reported to be very good in the Vals Sermenta and Mastalone. In both the beauty is greatly increased by the brilliant aqua-marine green of the water and the abundant chesnut woods.

## ROUTE 124.

MACUGNAGA TO GRESSONAY, BY THE  
TURLO PASS—THE COL D'OLLEN—  
COL DI VAL DOBBIA.

The most direct, but not the most interesting, route for travellers making the tour of Monte Rosa is to proceed from Macugnaga to Alagna by the Turlo Pass. It presents no difficulty to the practised pedestrian, but is long and fatiguing. The regular track commences at Borca, but some time is saved by crossing the Anza below Macugnaga and taking a path which



leads into the Val Quarazza above its junction with the Anza. The lower part of the *Val Quarazza* is pleasing and the ascent gentle. After ascending for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the traveller finds himself at the base of a steep rocky range which encircles the head of the valley. The slopes, which occur in the intervals between the out-cropping walls of bare rock, are covered with rhododendron and other stunted Alpine shrubs. It is most prudent to keep to the track, which is ill-marked, but in descending on this side the mountaineer will make short work of these slopes, using due caution to avoid a slip, which might be dangerous. Towards the summit are some rather long and steep slopes of snow, tiresome enough to mount, but easy in the descent. The actual summit of the pass (9141 ft.) is marked by a cross, and is a mere sharp ridge of rock forming the prolongation of a great spur which extends from the Signal Kuppe between the valleys of Anzasca and Sesia. A little S.E. of the cross are some rocks which command an extensive view towards the Lago Maggiore and the mountains beyond it, but the higher summits of Monte Rosa are not visible. It takes  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to reach the top of the pass from Macugnaga. On the S.W. side the track, when not covered with snow, is better marked. It winds round the N. side of a hollow filled with snow, and continues for some time nearly due S., in places over scattered débris, where it is easily lost. It then bears away to the westward until it reaches a group of miserable-looking chalets, beyond which is the final descent into the Val Sesia, which is reached at a bridge over the Sesia, nearly an hour's walk above Alagna. 8 hrs. exclusive of stoppages should be allowed, but an active mountaineer might accomplish the distance in 7 hrs.

*Alagna* (*Hotel*: Monte Rosa, good and clean), though in the immediate neighbourhood of magnificent scenery, does not command a view of any of the peaks of Monte Rosa. Unreason-

able demands are made here both for guides and mules, which ought to be resisted.

A very interesting excursion may be made from Alagna to the *Pile Alp* and the *Val di Bours*, or *Embours*, as written by the Schlagintweits. For the first hour the track is the same as that to the Col di Turlo. It crosses and recrosses the Sesia, passing, about 2 m. from Alagna, the abandoned gold-mine of *Kries*. Beyond this a wayside oratory is passed close to the bridge over the Sesia, near which commences the ascent to the Turlo. The path to the Pile Alp keeps to the rt. bank of the Sesia, mounting a steep staircase of rock on the slope of the *Staffelberg*, which is the mountain that shuts out from Alagna the view of Monte Rosa. After passing a cluster of poor chalets the traveller reaches in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Alagna a point which commands an admirable view of the S.E. portion of Monte Rosa.

On the left is seen one of the peaks (but not the highest point) of the Vincent Pyramide, next, in the background, the Schwarzhorn and Ludwigshöhe, then the Parrots Spitz, and lastly the grand mass of the *Signal Kuppe*. The latter peak (14,964 ft. in height) was ascended in 1842 by M. Gnifetti, the *curé* of Alagna, an excellent mountaineer, who is very ready to give information and advice to strangers visiting his native valley. Those who desire a still nearer view of these grand peaks will be well rewarded if they push on from the Pile Alp to the ridge N. of the Val di Bours, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. farther. At the head of the Val di Bours is a very fine waterfall fed by the snows of Monte Rosa, and descending from a great height (600 ft. ?) In the same direction there is a Col—called *Col del Piscie*—by which an active mountaineer might reach the Val des Lys either joining the path from the Col d' Ollen, near the Gabiet See, or descending by the E. side of the Lys Glacier. It is said to be also possible to reach the summit of the Col d' Ollen from the Val di Bours, so that a traveller might leave Alagna in the



morning, follow the track by the Pile Alp to the Val di Bours, thence cross to the Col d' Ollen, ascend the Gemstein, and reach Gressonay the same day. These expeditions should be undertaken only by well-trained mountaineers. Alagna is the meeting place of many different routes. That from Varallo by the Val Sesia has been described in Rte. 119. The traveller bound for the Val Anzasca may best take either of the two passes—the *Col di Moud*, or the *Col di Rima*—leading to Rima in the W. branch of the Val Sermenta. The first-named is the better of the two, and, though unfrequented, is described as a beautiful and easy pass, reaching Rima in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.— $2\frac{1}{4}$  to the top,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  to descend. 2 hrs. farther is Rimasco (Rte. 123). The two most frequented passes from the Val Sesia to the Val de Lys are the Col d'Ollen, commencing at Alagna, and the Col di Val Dobbia, the path to which turns from the Val Sesia at Riva,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. below Alagna. The first is the more interesting, and should always be preferred in fine weather; the second is shorter and much easier, being a good mule-path, but it is comparatively tame and unexciting.

a. The ascent to the *Col d' Ollen* begins immediately above the village, and occupies 4 hrs.; the last hour is very steep, and in bad weather the path may easily be lost. None but very good mules should be taken over this pass, as the track is difficult. It is 1000 ft. higher than Col de Val Dobbia, and more than 1 hr. longer; but is far preferable on account of its views. [On reaching the Col (9553 ft.) the traveller should ascend the peak of the *Gemstein*, half an hour's climb above the summit, on the N. side, from which there is a magnificent view of desolation on the side of the Alps and richness on the side of Italy.] Nothing can be imagined finer than the head of the Lys-thal. The Lys-gletscher, which descends low, is formed by the union of two magnificent branches, which sweep down from the Lys Kamm. Rock, river, rich pasturages, forests, glaciers, and mountains, are so admirably combined as to present a series of most

exquisite views, both in descending and in passing along the bottom of the valley. On the descent is passed a lonely tarn, called the *Gabiet See*, near which is a chalet better than common where milk may be procured. Near the village chapel of San Giacomo, and close by the road, there is a remarkably picturesque spot on the river, which has hollowed itself a very deep channel, across which has fallen a mass of rock, forming a natural bridge, which leads to the chapel and some adjacent houses. A sharp descent of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. leads to Trinità in the Lys-thal, whence it is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to Gressonay; or if the traveller intends to cross the Betta Furca (see Rte. 125) he may take a track to the rt. and merely cross the Val de Lys at St. Giacomo, at once commencing the ascent of the second Col, but it is a long and fatiguing day's walk to reach the head of the Val d'Ayas from Alagna.

b. The route to the *Col di Val Dobbia* starts from Riva (Route 119), and ascends the narrow ravine of the Dobbia, by a long and steep path, in some places overhanging the torrent, in others disputing with the river the narrow course through which both must struggle. After passing the miserable hamlet of Grato, near to which there is a fine waterfall gushing out to the black ravine, the abrupt ascent to the Col rises through a pine forest, and thence over Alpine pasturages by a long and fatiguing path, which offers no object of particular interest to the traveller.

The distance from Riva to the Col, which is 8250 ft. above the level of the sea, requires 4 hrs. On the summit there is an humble *Hospice*—a stone house of 2 stories, affording acceptable shelter during snow-storms to travellers; it is the successor probably of a hovel which existed in Saussure's time. It was built at the joint expense of the commune of Riva and of an individual of Gressonay, the canon Sottile. It is inhabited throughout the year by 2 civil men who attend to travellers and their wants. A view is obtained from the summit, extending from the immediate vicinity of Mont Blanc to the

Alps of the Val Tellina. The Monte Rosa is concealed from the traveller, but in the course of his descent the deep valley of the Lys offers views rivalling any in the Great Chain.

The descent to Gressonay may be easily made in 2 hrs.

*Gressonay* (St. Jean). (*Inns*: that of \*Delapierre is very good, well supplied for so remote a situation, and the landlord most attentive; a new Inn, kept by M. Sebastian Lintz, is highly spoken of; guides and mules.) Delapierre and his son Ferdinand are both good guides, and he provides mules with side-saddles for ladies. Travellers must not expect to find the ordinary guides at this or other villages about Monte Rosa at all worthy of comparison with the professional guides of Chamouni or the Bernese Oberland. The mules also are generally inferior animals.

Gressonay is properly the name of the commune which includes all the upper part of the *Val de Lys*, or *Lysthal*. There are many hamlets scattered along the course of the stream for a distance of about 8 m. The principal one is that of St. Jean, where alone good accommodation is to be found. The beauty of the scenery, the interesting objects in the neighbourhood, and the comfortable quarters, combine to make this the most desirable stopping-place on the Italian side of Monte Rosa; but for those who desire a close acquaintance with the great mountain, the distance of St. Jean from the head of the valley (fully 3 hrs. walk to the foot of the glacier) is a serious drawback. St. Jean is 4530 ft. above the sea.

In the communes at the heads of the Piedmontese valleys of Monte Rosa the German language is spoken; at Alagna in the Val Sesia, above Pestarena in the Val Anzasca, and in this which is the most considerable of the German communes. The manners of these communities are as distinct as their language from that of their neighbours lower down the valleys, with whom they hold little intercourse: they encourage a pride of birth and birthplace which strongly keeps up

the separation. At Gressonay this is perhaps more strongly exemplified than in any other of the valleys. Here their characters are distinguished for honesty and industry, and few communities have a higher moral tone. Crime is almost unknown among them: and if disputes arise, the syndic or magistrate elected by themselves hears the complaint, and effects an amicable settlement. They possess many of those comforts which an Englishman appreciates, and which are unknown to the lower inhabitants of the valleys. Their education and attainments are of a higher order than is usually found in such a class, especially in such a place. Many of their young men have distinguished themselves by the abilities which they have displayed when they have gone abroad in the world. They have become merchants and bankers, and many from among them have become eminent for learning and science, and reflected honour on the little community located in this Alpine solitude. Among these is Herr Zumstein, better known in the Val Sesia as M. de la Pierre, inspector of the forests of the Val Sesia, who long since explored the flanks and ascended one of the summits of Monte Rosa, and gave great assistance to Col. Von Welden in his topography of Monte Rosa.

Irrespective of the passes that lead from Gressonay to the E.—already described—and those leading westward, described in Rte. 125, there are many interesting excursions to be made, and travellers do unwisely who merely hurry through without seeing as much of the neighbouring mountains as weather and strength will permit. The most interesting excursion in fine weather is that to the *Lys Glacier*. There is a good paved mule-path as far as *Noversch*, where Herr Zumstein resides. Beyond this (about 1½ hr. from St. Jean) is the rather large hamlet of *Gressonay la Trinità*. Next is *San Giacomo*, from whence a path to the Col d'Ollen ascends on the rt., and that to the Betta Furca on the l. (see Rte. 125). The last hamlet is *San Pietro*, and beyond it, at a spot called

*Am Bett*, is a large house belonging to Baron Pecco, a native of the valley, who, after having acquired a fortune and title in Germany, has returned to his birthplace, and there indulges in the passion for chamois-hunting. He has several chalets on the neighbouring mountains, one of which is close to the E. bank of the Lys Glacier, and a house at St. Jean, where he keeps a collection of trophies of the chase, including some unusually fine bouquetin's heads. The Lys Glacier is more easily approached on the E. than on the opposite side, where the moraine is extremely high and steep. It is well worth while to ascend by the lateral moraine until the less crevassed part is reached, and then to advance over the glacier towards the base of the *Nase*, a conspicuous peak or promontory of rock standing out in the midst of the glacier, which falls in magnificent ice-cascades at either side of it. Practised mountaineers may cross the glacier, and descend the steep moraine on the W. side: not less than 10 hrs. should be allowed for the excursion. On the E. side of the glacier, and below the Vincent Pyramide, is the *Hohes Licht*, a rounded prominence, where at one time a gold-mine was worked at more than 10,800 ft. above the sea.

A hut was constructed near the mine, which served Zumstein and other explorers of Monte Rosa as a sleeping-place. Another hut was subsequently built about 600 ft. lower, on the ridge descending from the Vincent Pyramide, close to the summit of the *Col delle Piscie*. The brothers Schlagentweit remained there for 14 days in 1851 engaged in scientific observations. The height of this hut, called Vincentshütte, is 10,383 ft.

The finest panoramic view in the neighbourhood of Gressonay is that from the summit of the *Graues Haupt*, or *Grauhaupt*, 11,040 Eng. ft. in height. Its crags rising precipitously on the W. side of the Val de Lys are conspicuous from Zermatt.

"No one should, if possible, leave Gressonay without ascending it, if the weather be favourable. It is a diffi-

cult excursion for ladies, at least to the very top, though one was of our party. The view from the summit is a superb panorama, and may certainly count amongst the finest in the Alps. After ascending the Val de Lys for 35 min. a steep path by the side of a waterfall on the l. leads up to a cluster of chalets and some luxuriant pasturages; it is well to start early, so as to get over this part before the sun appears above the mountains on the E. side of the valley. Thence the ascent is more easy, over the side of the hill, rich with rhododendrons and mosses, till vegetation begins to cease, and the path mounts by the side of a mountain-stream till it reaches (in 3 hrs. from Gressonay) the *Col de Pinta*, a wild and desolate depression in the ridge, strewn with large rocks, where, as well as at the summit, there is a pyramid of stones, a "homme de pierre" as the guides call it. Here the mule-path ends, and, if ladies are not strong enough to mount further, they will be amply compensated by the view from this point. The higher part of the mountain itself intercepts the view of the Monte Rosa chain, but the whole range from Mont Combin to the Grand Paradis in the range on the S. of the Val d'Aosta is seen; Mont Blanc rearing its huge amphitheatre of ice high above its neighbours. Beyond this the way—not path, for there is none—lies over loose shingle and shale; several large rocks have to be either circumvented or climbed, and the incline, just after the Col, is very steep: afterwards it lies over harder stones, the footing on which is more secure; 5 or 10 min. before reaching the summit there is a very stiff climb of 20 or 30 ft. of steep rock, and in less than 2 hrs. from the Col the top is reached, where we remained an hour. A perfect circle of mountains here reward the trouble of the climb: the whole of Monte Rosa with the majestic Matterhorn appear quite close; Mont Blanc, farther away to the W., easily proves itself to be the 'Monarch of Mountains,' at least in height. The Pic de Grivola, the Grand Paradis, and all the

ridge N. of Turin, are in the middle distance; whilst the Maritime Alps that bound the Riviera from Nice to Genoa, with Monte Viso conspicuously great on the one side, and the Tyrolean Alps with the huge Orteler Spitz on the other, form a splendid background to this glorious panorama.

"The Col is a convenient place, after descending from the actual summit, for the mid-day déjeuner: provisions however must be taken, as nothing but very excellent milk can be obtained at the high châteaux."—C. C. T.

The time, exclusive of stoppages, is:—

To ASCEND.		h. m.	
Up the valley . . . .		0	35
Up to the Col . . . .		2	30
Up to the top . . . .		1	55
		<hr/>	
		5	0
To DESCEND.			
Down to the Col . . . .		0	55
Down to the valley . . . .		1	55
To Gressonay . . . .		0	20
		<hr/>	
		3	10

Those who do not feel confident of their strength will do much better to attempt some easier summit, rather than stop short in the ascent of the Grauhaupt at the Col di Pinta. Such a point is the Pointe de Combetta, S. of the Col di Ranzola (Rte. 125). Another summit, less difficult than the Grauhaupt, but more laborious than the Combetta, is the *Telchenhorn*, whose top is seen exactly in the background of the valley from the bridge of Gressonay. It is, in fact, a prolongation of the ridge of the Hohes Licht.

"It is a walk of 2½ hrs. to reach its foot, passing the paths leading to the Col d'Ollen on the rt., and Betta Furca on the l. A severe scramble of 2 hrs. brought us to the summit, over short prickly grass, affording no hold. The near view of the Lyskamm and glacier and Vincent Pyramide is very grand. The Hoheslicht, which is the only intervening mountain, would probably command still grander views, but we had no time to ascend it. Between the Grauhaupt and Betta Furca pass

there is a fine view of the Grivola and the Mont Emilius. The height of the Telchenhorn is apparently about the same as the Col d'Ollen."

It would be quite possible to combine the ascent of the Telchenhorn with an excursion on the Lys Glacier in one long day's walk.

From Gressonay it is a walk of about 18 m. to descend the Val de Lys, or *Vallese* as the Italian portion of the valley is called, to St. Martin in the Val d'Aosta, passing many villages and hamlets, of which the principal are *Gaby*, *Issime*, *Fontainemore*, and *Lillianes*, through wild and imposing rock scenery, combined with the richest vegetation in a manner characteristic of the Val d'Aosta and its lateral valleys. About Trina the valley is strewn with huge rolled blocks or boulders. As you approach the Ponte di Trinità the scene becomes sterner, more shattered precipices and long shoots of débris and detached rocks. Below Issime an unbroken and beautiful wood of sweet chestnut stretches across the valley. The Vallese loses much in interest to those who ascend it.

At St. Martin (Rte. 134) is a tolerable *Inn*, La Rosa Rossa.

## ROUTE 125.

GRESSONAY TO CHATILLON, BY THE COL DE RANZOLA, OR BY THE BETTA FURCA.

The three valleys of Anzasca, Sesia, and Lys, described in Rtes. 119, 121, and 124, diverge from Monte Rosa like the spokes of a wheel from the axle, and therefore the shortest passage from one to the other is that nearest to the central mountain. The two valleys which succeed the Val de Lys to the westward—the valleys of Challant and Tournanche—are nearly parallel to it and to each other, and they all three open out into the Val d'Aosta, which is the main depression corresponding to the ridge of the Pennine Alps. The ridge separating the Val de Lys from the Val Challant may be passed at many points, but the two frequented passes are the Col de Ranzola and the Betta Furca. The former is by far the easier and more interesting, and is besides considerably the shorter route to Chatillon or Aosta.

a. To reach the *Col de Ranzola* it is necessary to ascend the steep forest paths and slopes of the mountain on the side of the valley opposite to the Col de Val Dobbia; it is a rather fatiguing mule-path the whole way up to the summit of the ridge which divides the valleys of the Lys and Challant.

On emerging in the ascent from the pine forest a grand view of Monte Rosa is presented, with the beautiful *Val de Lys* lying far below the traveller, with its quiet villages and fertile pasturages. The Lys, like a silver thread, may be traced up to its glaciers. On either side of the valley the vast mountains, belted with forests, offer, at the depression of their ridges, the paths by which the most frequent intercourse takes place with the neighbouring valleys. From a peak rising a little above the pass, called *Pointe de*

[Switz.]

*Combetta*, one of the finest panoramic views of Monte Rosa and the Val d'Aosta and the Val de Gressonay may be obtained. This point can be reached in 2½ or 3 hrs. from Gressonay.

At the top of the pass the view of Monte Rosa is shut out, but in clear weather the traveller is recompensed by a fine distant view of Mont Blanc. After passing the Col de Ranzola (7136 ft.) the descent is gradual to the little hamlet of St. Grat, then somewhat steep to Brussonne. In the descent the *Val Challant* may be traced in its course down to Verrex, where it joins the Val d'Aosta, in which the Doire may be distinctly seen, flashing across like a streak of light, broken by the dark mass of the Castle of Verrex, which stands at the very junction of the two valleys, while under the feet, or not far off, is perched upon the declivity the picturesque Castle of Challant.

In 4 hrs. from Gressonay the traveller reaches *Brussonne*—*Inns*: Hôtel Royal, tolerable; Lion d'Or—a beautifully situated village. From hence the *Val Challant* may be descended to Verrex in the Val d'Aosta, about 3 hrs. walk, which will be found very hot by the traveller descending from the highland valleys. The scenery is beautiful, but the inhabitants are afflicted with goitre and crétinism to a painful extent.

Above Brussonne the valley changes its character and its name, being there called *Val d'Ayas* from the name of the chief village.

The most direct and agreeable route to Châtillon and Aosta is by the *Col de Jon*. To reach it the path, after crossing some meadows beyond Brussonne, winds steeply up through a forest of pines and larches, and then opens upon one of the most beautiful pasturages in the Alps—the *Col de Jon*, which is a fine greensward, broad and luxuriant. This is not a pass over a depression in a mountain range, such as are common in the Alps, but merely a short cut gained by crossing the shoulder of a mountain, instead of winding round its base. The Mont

Zerbion is the southern extremity of the range separating the Val d'Ayas from the Val Tournanche, and it is over the side of this mountain that the track lies.

On reaching the descent towards the Val d'Aosta, near a little chapel of St. Grat, this beautiful valley is seen in all its length, from Châtillon to the Mont Blanc; not traced quite to the base of the latter, for its summit only is seen on the rt. peering into the Val d'Aosta, over several compact lines of mountains, which here form the termination of the horizon. The prospect of the Val d'Aosta itself is charming; its meadows and cultivated patches margined by thick woods of walnut-trees, which creep up the water-channelled dells at the foot of the mountain—the castles of Usselle on its rock, of Finnis overlooking its sea of wood, with numerous white ch. towers and spires—Aosta and its plain, and the winding flashes of the Doire undulating or sweeping across the vale—combine to form a view striking and beautiful, which, in the descent, constantly varies. A series of steep tourniquets down a water-worn channel with grassy banks brings the traveller to the forests of chestnut and walnut trees, for which the Val d'Aosta is celebrated. These offer to him their shade, and soon the vines add their luxuriant foliage to the cool and refreshing path which leads past the mineral spring to the village and Baths of St. Vincent (2½ hrs. from Brusson). The valley of Aosta is entered at one of its finest points near **ST. VINCENT** (Rte. 134) (*Inn*, Ecu de France, fair), less than 2 m. from **CHATILLON** (Rte. 134).

b. The *Betta Furca* is the easiest pass between the upper end of the Val de Lys and the Val d'Ayas. It is not in itself a very interesting pass, and unless taken on the way between Gressoney and Zermatt, or unless the traveller wishes to explore the glaciers at the head of the Val d'Ayas, there is little to recommend it. This pass is quite practicable for mules. A good track leads from Gressonay

up the valley through Noversch for 2½ hrs., then turns to the l. and ascends rapidly for 1 hr. to a small oratory, whence is a beautiful view of the Lyskamm and its glacier: another good hour of gentle ascent reaches the col (8862 ft.), on which is a wooden cross. Half an hour on the descent are the chalets of *Reapel*, where the accommodation is wretched. Further down are the chalets of *Sus-selle*, where tolerable sleeping quarters are to be found, “chez l'Enfant.” The very poor village of *San Giacomo d'Ayas* is next reached. The traveller fares ill here; the curé is said (1855) to be unwilling to receive visitors. [Here the pass over the *Cinies Blanches* (Rte. 128) branches off.] The road now follows the stream *Evanson*, or *Torrent Blanche*, to *Ayas*, and a little further joins the track from *Brusson* over the *Col de Jon*. Distance—about 7 hrs. from Gressonay to *San Giacomo*; 2½ hrs. from *San Giacomo* to *Brusson*.

## ROUTE 127.

### VISP TO ZERMATT OR SAAS.

	H. MIN.	
Visp.		
Stalden . . . . .	1	45
St. Niklaus . . . . .	2	30
Herbruggen . . . . .	1	10
Randa . . . . .		50
Täsch . . . . .		50
Zermatt . . . . .	1	10
	8	15

The concourse of travellers to the valleys around the Monte Rosa\* is every year increasing, and deservedly: and the inn accommodation has kept

\* The late Wm. Brockedon, author of ‘*Passes of the Alps*,’ was perhaps the first who drew the attention of English travellers to Zermatt and Monte Rosa. The fame of their unrivalled scenery has since been extended by Professor Forbes’s ‘*Alps of Savoy*,’ and by other more recent works referred to in the introduction.



pace with the increased resort of strangers flowing in. The peculiarity of Zermatt or "Young Chamouni" is, that, whereas the way up to it from the Valais is tolerably easy, there is no way out except by glacier passes, which not every one is hardy enough to attempt. The St. Théodule is, however, passable from July to the middle of October. The only direct mode of reaching Zermatt is from *Visp* or *Vidge* in the Valais (R. 59), where horses can be obtained. Each horse costs 11 fr. a-day, and 1 fr. bonnemain to the man who leads it. Including stoppages, 11 hrs. are occupied in going up to Zermatt, and not much less in coming down. The best plan is to take horses at Visp, use them at Zermatt for the Riffelberg, &c., and return upon them, thus avoiding back fare.

The other bridle-path to Zermatt is up the Turtman Thal to Zmeiden or Gruben the first day, thence over the hill to St. Niklaus (Rte. 129).

Ladies not equal to a ride of 9 hrs. from Visp to Zermatt may stop half-way at St. Nicholas, or Randa, for the night. The lower part of the valley is exceedingly hot. It is therefore a decided gain to push on over-night beyond Visp, even only to Stalden. Those who are pressed for time may reach St. Niklaus or Randa in the evening, the Riffelberg next day, and ascend the Gorner-Grat and return on the third day.

The scenery in the valley leading to Zermatt is fine, and the interest is kept up by occasional glimpses of the gigantic peaks that enclose the valley. The people in the valley seem miserably poor and afflicted with goitre, and are filthily dirty in person. At every church is a well-filled charnel-house, and in the churchyards skulls and bones are often lying about unnoticed. This valley suffered terribly from the earthquake in 1855; the road, which had just been made, was destroyed in many places, but it has since been restored. There is not the least occasion for a guide at any time up to Zermatt.

The road leaves Visp on the rt. bank of the river, and is yearly improved. The lower part of the Visper Thal is very hot, and vines are cultivated for some distance above Visp. The snowy peak of the Balfrin is seen, and beyond Stalden the Brunneck Horn. You cross over to the l. bank of the Visp at

*Neubrücke*. The trout rush down to the Rhone when the glaciers melt, and are caught here in quantities. Fine view up from this bridge of the fork of the valley.

*Stalden* (2722 ft.) (*Inn*, Traube, poor, but clean and moderate, good muscat wine), at the junction of the stream from Zermatt, called Gorner-Visp, with that from Saas, or Saaser-Visp. There is a path from Stalden to the Hospice on the Simplon. The path to Saas here turns l. over the Kinnbrücke (Rte. 122). That to Zermatt ascends on the l. bank of the Gorner, Visp, and the *valley of St. Nicholas*, running along the edge of precipices, winding much, rising high and descending low, and twice crosses the Visp before reaching

*St. Nicholas* (Germ. *St. Niklaus*) (*Inns*: Croix Blanche, Soleil; both fairly good, under one management), a good place for a halt or for the night. This village, which is rather less miserable than its neighbours, was much injured by the earthquake in 1855; it is the chief place in the valley, and is charmingly situated amidst wild Alpine scenery, tempered with forests and orchards in the foreground, on the l. bank of the Visp.

[There is a short but high cut over the shoulder of the mountain to the valley of Saas. There is also a pass to the Turtman-Thal. (Rte. 129.)]

After leaving St. Niklaus the path soon returns to the rt. bank, traversing in turn meadow and forest, crossed now and then by a land-slip or glacier-stream from the snows above. In front, the snows of the Breithorn and the Little Mont Cervin soon come into view, and remain visible at intervals till near Zermatt. Beyond Herbruggen is

*Randa* (*Inn*, H. du Dom, 12 beds)



(4740 ft.), situated among extensive meadows, opposite a gap in the precipice walling in the valley on the W., through which the Bies glacier descends from the Weisshorn, which is here left behind. In 1819, Dec. 27, a considerable portion of this glacier lying on the steep slope above the precipice suddenly detached itself, and fell from a height of 1500 ft. into the valley near to the village of Randa; it did not reach it in descending, but passed a little on one side of it, yet the mere draft of air produced by a fall from such a vast elevation destroyed the greater part of the houses, scattering the timbers of which they were built like straws, over the mountain side, to the distance of a mile, and hurling millstones many fathoms up hill. In the summer of 1858 the summit of the *Dom*—the highest of the Mischabelhörner, 14,935 ft. above the sea—was for the first time attained by the Rev. J. L. Davies; starting before daylight, he reached the summit in 9 hrs., and descended in 5, returning to Zermatt in the evening.

About an hour beyond Randa is a larger village, *Täsch*. [From Täsch the Allalein pass, a difficult glacier pass, fit only for practised mountaineers, leads E. to Saas. The height is about 12,000 ft.]

Beyond the village of Täsch the road has been made close to the stream; and turning a corner where it has been excavated in the rock, a striking view of the *Mt. Cervin*, or *Matterhorn*, distinguished from all other peaks by its slender, isolated pyramid, opens, and a view is obtained of

#### ZERMATT (Piedmontese Praborgne).

*Inns*: H. du Mont Rosa, H. du Mont Cervin; both good: H. du Mont Cervin larger and the more comfortable of the two, better fare. There is also a good *Inn* on the Riffelberg  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. further, kept by the proprietors of the H. du Mont Rosa. This retired village, of 450 Inhab., 5315 ft. above the sea, consisting of about 60 quaint old black wooden houses, with the 2 huge white inns towering above them, is placed in a

little plain, close to the grandest scenery of nature, near the junction of 3 valleys, each headed by a glacier. E. is the Findelen Glacier, S. the Zermatt or Gorner Glacier and W. the Zmutz Glacier. The mineralogist, botanist, and entomologist may collect rich harvests in the neighbourhood. Here many days may be spent in excursions to the glaciers and points of view with which the neighbourhood abounds. The pasturage appears good, but the attempts to raise grain crops in this damp and shady valley are melancholy, and only serve to show the great industry of its inhabitants. The bread is not good, probably because the wheat can never ripen. In wet weather this valley must be truly miserable. It is now much frequented by travellers: 1500 to 2000 visitors in a year.

The grandest object in the views around Zermatt is the *Mont Cervin* (Germ. *Matterhorn*, Ital. *Monte S. Cristofano*), which, near the village, is seen to rise in singular beauty and magnificence against the sky, 14,705 Eng. feet high.

Prof. Forbes describes it "as beyond comparison the most striking natural object he had seen,—an inaccessible obelisk of rock, not 1000 ft. lower than Mont Blanc." It lifts itself from an otherwise unbroken line of glacier, which is more than 11,000 Eng. ft. above the level of the sea: this object alone would repay the trouble of a visit to Zermatt from Visp.

*Guides*.—There is no difficulty in getting good guides at Zermatt, and most of them speak a little French. Johann and Peter Taugwald, Stephen Biener, Joseph Biener, and Pierre Perrin are among the best. There is an authorised *Tariff* of charges to be seen at the hotels. 50 fr. for Monte Rosa; 20 fr. over the *Tariff* to Châtillon; 6 fr. a day and 1 fr. *bonnemain* for ordinary excursions; mules 10 fr. a day and 1 fr. *bonnemain*.

#### Excursions.

a. \**Riffelberg* and \*\**Gorner Grät*.—The first excursion from Zermatt is up the *Riffelberg*, and to the *Gorner Grät*,



MONTE ROSA,  
highest peak.

SOUTH.  
Lyskamm.

Theod  
Pass.

O



W. Glacier of B

Tritt Pass.

R

X

nd those who have time but for one expedition only usually choose this. It is very comfortably accomplished by sleeping two nights at Zermatt; but those who wish to save a day may sleep at St. Niklaus, next day to the Riffelberg Inn, and on the following day to the Gorner Grat and back to St. Niklaus. From Zermatt to the Inn on the Riffelberg is 2½ hrs. on horses, 2 hrs. good walking. From the Inn to the top of the Gorner Grat 1½ hr.

The *Riffelberg* is properly a long rocky ridge or promontory, extending between the Gorner Glacier and the Findelen Glacier; but the portion of it near the inn, and overhanging Zermatt, is especially called by that name. The three principal summits, rising one higher than the other from W. to E., are called the *Gorner Grat*, the *Hochthäligrat*, and the *Stockhorn*. The *Riffelhorn* is a singular detached pinnacle of serpentine rock rising above the Gorner glacier. An Inn, very fairly kept, but often overcrowded, has been built upon a part of the Riffelberg, at an elevation of 8430 ft., affording fine views in the immediate neighbourhood, and about 1½ hr. from the top of the Gorner Grat, the great object of attraction. Charges much too high.

The Inn on the Riffelberg is very conspicuous from Zermatt; there is no danger in going up, or even to the Gorner Grat without a guide, but it is quite possible to miss the path. This goes past the ch. and on the l. bank of the Visp for about 10 min., when the stream is crossed. The path then crosses some meadows, and ascends for about an hr. by a path exceedingly steep in places, through a noble forest—first of larch, then of *Arve*, (*pinus cembra*); it then emerges on a small alp or pasturage, and, passing some chalets, turns to the rt. and crosses a torrent; the rest of the ascent is easy, winding round the shoulder of the mountain towards the Gorner Glacier, and finally arriving at the plateau where the inn is situated. From this plateau there is a noble view of the Mont Cervin and the ranges towards the S. and W.; and

from points near it are views over the Gorner Glacier. Leaving the inn, and keeping a little to the S., and then turning E. amongst some rocks, the path ascends, becoming very rugged. Grand views of the mts. and of the glacier below. A rugged peak is seen on the rt., the *Riffelhorn*, which it is just possible, but not profitable, to ascend; Mr. Wilson, climbing this without a guide, having previously ascended it with one, fell and perished, July, 1865. The path continues till, in about an hr. from the inn, it reaches a little lake. It becomes so rough that it is better to dismount, and send the horses to meet you near the Guggli. [Two narrow footpaths are made down the face of the cliff on to the glacier; the one that diverges to the rt. leads over the ice to the St. Théodule, the other to the Weissthor and the summit of Monte Rosa.] The track is now over rocky masses with snow in the hollows, and vegetation becomes very scanty, until the summit of the Gorner Grat is reached, 10,290 ft. above the sea-level. This is a round knoll, perhaps 50 yds. across, with precipices towards the Gorner Glacier and a steep slope of snow on the N.; it commands a splendid view of the Gorner Glacier, and also a complete panorama, nearly 40 m. in diameter, of snowy mountains, in which respect it exceeds anything at Chamouni, where the view is always confined to one side. The only point where there is anything to impede a complete view is a snowy eminence to the E. on a continuation of the Riffelberg ridge, and called *Hochthäligrat*. This point is about 1½ hr. from the Gorner Grat; the view differs very little from that already obtained.

Descending from the Gorner Grat, and keeping rather towards the N. by a track not easy to find, in about ¾ hr. the eminence called *Guggli* is reached, the view from which is remarkable, though it will perhaps appear tame after that from the Gorner Grat. The Nesthorn on the N. side of the valley of the Rhone is from here a conspicuous object.

From Guggli there is a path by the side of the Findelen Glacier back

to Zermatt, but it is usual to return in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. over rough but level ground to the inn, whence by a circuit of 1 hr., or so, the foot of the Gorner-gletscher, where the river issues from it, may be visited; and though the vault of ice at present is far inferior to those of the Glacier du Bois, or Grindelwald, the exquisite beauty of the spot well deserves a visit. Here one may literally touch the meadows with one hand, and the glacier with the other. The torrent from the vault of the glacier soon plunges into a singularly beautiful gorge of serpentine, the commencement of a romantic forest ravine, through which it leaps and struggles until it reaches the plains of Zermatt. The descent from the glacier to Zermatt is about 45 minutes.

The Gorner Glacier is especially worth observing, owing to the rapidity of its encroachments. In 1853 a foot-bridge, which crossed the stream just below its exit from the ice cavern, had been carried away, and the cave is now some yards beyond it. The glacier protruded into some of the richest pastures, and the turf was literally turned up and thrown back by it as by the share of an enormous plough.

*b. Schwartzsee and Zmutt Glacier.*—The path is the same as that to the Théodule for the first 45 min. When near the foot of the Gorner glacier, strike up the mountain to the rt.; the path will soon be found, and about 45 min. of steep zigzags succeed. After this the track becomes more level, leading nearly straight for Mont Cervin, and in 45 min. more brings you to the Schwartzsee,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Zermatt. Ladies can ride all the way; but the ascent is in part steep. The Schwartzsee is a little lake, 8393 ft., on a buttress of the Matterhorn, with a lone chapel beside it. There is nothing remarkable in the spot itself; but the low ridge east of it commands a superb panoramic view of the whole basin of Zermatt, with its surrounding mountains: a view in some respects finer than that from the Riffel. Here the Matterhorn, rising overhead, is the

principal object; but the view also embraces the whole extent of the Gorner-gletscher, to the top of Monte Rosa. A still finer view is obtained by mounting the rocky peak above the lake, called the *Hörnli*, an hour's steep ascent, a small part of which is over ice or moraine, and not easy to find, or perhaps safe to attempt, without a guide. It is so infinitely superior that no one ought to omit it. It was by way of the Hörnli buttress that the Matterhorn was first ascended in July, 1865, by Mr. Whymper, Rev. C. Hudson, Lord Charles Douglas, and Mr. Hadow; while descending it, there occurred a footslip. The rope broke below Mr. Whymper, and the three other gentlemen, with the guide Michael Croz, fell over a precipice of 4000 ft. and perished. The summit of the Cervin may be deemed almost inaccessible, and after this catastrophe it is to be hoped no one will be so reckless of his own life and the lives of others as to try it. Either from the Hörnli or from the Schwartzsee, a different route may be taken, descending westward to the foot of the great glacier of Zmutt, and returning along the N. side of the Zmutt valley to Zermatt. This route passes through fine large forests, and abounds in most singular and beautiful pictures. The descent this way is less steep, but longer: it will take about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The Zmutt Glacier is well worth a visit on account of the magnificent views obtained from it.

Another returning route is by the side of the Gorner Glacier.

*c. The Untere Rothhorn* may be ascended in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by a steep mule path. The view is more panoramic than that from the Gorner Grat; it rises in the centre of a complete circle of snow mountains, and you see at one view the 3 chief glacier routes leading out of the valley of Zermatt, viz the Matterjoch into Val d'Aosta, the Weiss Thor into Val Anzasca, and that by Zmutt Glacier into Val d'Erin. There is a short and steep descent into the Findelenthal.

*d. From Zermatt or the Riffelberg* a rather difficult path is now often

taken by English travellers, leading directly across the glaciers of Monte Rosa, and affording a very short cut from Zermatt to Macagnaga, in the Val Anzasca.

This is the pass now called the Weiss Thor, but, to distinguish it from the old and now disused pass of that name, it should be called the *New Weiss Thor*. (See Rte. 121.) The pass now used, which appears to have been first discovered about 1849 or 1850, is rather higher than the old pass, being 11,851 ft. above the sea. For mountaineers who can count upon the perfect steadiness of their heads, and upon their endurance in the event of bad weather coming on, there is no danger in the pass; but it is by no means a route for inexperienced travellers, unless accompanied by good guides, and in very settled weather. The guides ask 25 fr. for the expedition, and a stout youth to act as porter may be had for 15 fr. In taking the pass from Zermatt it is rather shorter to go by the Findelen glacier, but it is far more advisable to sleep at the Riffel Hotel, and to be on the Gorner glacier as early as possible in the morning. Starting from the inn on the Riffelberg, the path on the rt. leaves the little lake at the foot of the Riffelhorn, and then passes nearly on a level along the very steep slope forming the southern face of the Gorner Grat, at first at a great height above the glacier, till the gradual rise of the glacier brings its surface to a level with the path in about an hour after leaving the hotel. The glacier is thus ascended for some distance, but the crevasses soon render it necessary to return to the rocks on the l. In about 2½ hrs. from the Riffel the path takes to the glacier again. From this point, with the ridge dividing the Gorner from the Findelen glacier on the l., Monte Rosa on the rt., and the peak of the Cima di Jazi in front, the track lies nearly in a straight line over easy slopes of snow, and across or round numerous crevasses, some altogether concealed, others revealing blue chasms walled with ice of great purity and solidity. Towards the

higher part of this great snow-field the 2 glaciers—Gorner and Findelen—become mingled together, there being here only a faint dividing ridge. Looking back from here, the view is very grand, and takes in nearly the whole of the vast chain extending from Monte Rosa to Mont Blanc—seen, however, in the direction of its length, so that it is not easy to distinguish many of the intermediate peaks. The track now bears away to the l., or nearly due N., leaving on the rt. hand the snowy summit of the Cima de Jazi, and crossing a slight depression in the ridge joining the latter summit and the Strahlhorn. After ascending for a short distance on the N. side of this depression, a point is reached where in two or three steps the scene is changed as if by enchantment. Instead of toiling over a snow-field, with no object visible save boundless fields of *névé* and occasional black rocks, the traveller finds himself on a narrow ledge of rock apparently overhanging a precipice. On the N. or left-hand side this terminates in a projecting buttress only a few yards distant; in the opposite direction the precipitous wall on whose summit he is standing is seen to extend far to the southward, until it is united to the tremendous eastern face of Monte Rosa. The highest intervening summit is that of the Cima de Jazi, not more than 600 or 700 ft. higher than where he stands. The precipice terminates only a few feet from the summit of the Cima; and there, and in many other places, the thick layer of snow which coats the top of the ridge is seen to form an overhanging cornice that might be easily broken away by the weight of an unwary traveller. Looking downward, if the valley below be clear, the traveller sees the lower end of the Macagnaga glacier about 6000 ft. below him, appearing so near that a stone flung from the hand might reach it. It far more commonly happens, even in fine weather, that a sea of cloud hangs like a pall between the valley below and the spectator. Lying, as they do, some thousands

feet below him, he supposes the clouds to fill the valley, while the people of Macugnaga, seeing clouds three or four thousand feet above their heads, imagine that they cover the mountain-tops. The single point at which the edge of the precipice is conveniently reached is often selected by the guides as a halting-place for luncheon. However uninviting the appearance of the precipice may be even to mountaineers, it is quite possible to descend directly from this point, but the guides seldom choose that course. The rocks are excessively steep, and there are one or two points that are scarcely safe, except to practised cragsmen, used to "hold on by their eyelids." The usual course is to ascend along the ridge for a short distance further to the N., until a few projecting rocks are reached. At this point the great wall connecting Monte Rosa and the Strahlhorn, along the top of which the track has hitherto lain, is joined by a transverse ridge running in an easterly direction, and forming in this place the boundary between Switzerland and Italy. This transverse ridge is much lower than the wall against which it abuts, and at the point of junction it is united by a steep buttress of rock partly coated with snow and ice. It is by this buttress that the pass of the *New Weiss Thor* is usually effected. The N. side looks towards Saas, and overhangs the *Schwarzberg Glacier*, which descends near to the Distel Alp. The S. side of the buttress faces the Macugnaga glacier. It is by the N. side that the first part of the descent is made, along some very steep but not dangerous faces of rock. There is good holding-ground for hands and feet. After about a quarter of an hour the chief apparent difficulty of the pass is encountered. This is an extremely steep ridge of snow, sometimes frozen hard, along the edge of which the descent lies. With good guides, and proper use of the rope, there is no danger.

At the foot of this are some steep rocks with snow between them. The track now takes to the Macugnaga side of the ridge, and the remainder

of the descent is alternately over rocks, piles of debris, and snow slopes which are sometimes favourable for a *glissade*. Here the rope, which ought to have been in use since reaching the *névé* of the upper part of the Gorner glacier, may be laid aside, and the remainder of the descent presents no difficulties. From 9 to 10 hrs. (according to the state of the snow) should be allowed for reaching Macugnaga from the Riffel Hotel, exclusive of halts. At least an hour more should be allowed in taking the pass from Macugnaga to the Riffel, which involves a much longer and steeper ascent. Clouds often gather round the summit, and the services of a thoroughly experienced guide are essential. [From the foot of the *arête* it is easy to reach the *Schwarzberg glacier*, and so descend into the valley of Saas, a little above the inn at the Mattmark See. (See Rte. 122.)]

e. The Weiss-thor pass is, however, rather difficult and dangerous; and a finer view can be obtained by going part of the way and then ascending *Cima di Jazi* (12,527 ft.). This can be easily reached in 5 hrs. from the Riffelberg Hotel. During the greater part of the time the path is over ice and snow on easy slopes, and there is no other mountain in the Alps of that height which can be so easily ascended. The view from the top extends over the Pennine chain, the Bernese Alps, and the plains and lakes of Italy, and to the Tyrol. A rope is always advisable, but in general there is neither difficulty nor danger. The guide has usually 10 fr.

f. *Monte Rosa*. The highest part of Monte Rosa consists of a range of 5 peaks running N. and S., the extremities of the range not being more than 2 m. apart. Commencing at the northern end, the names and heights of the peaks are, according to the latest measurements,—

	Eng. ft.
Nord End . . . .	15,132
Höchste Spitze . . . .	15,217
Zumstein Spitze . . . .	15,004
Signal Kuppe . . . .	14,964
Parrot Spitze . . . .	14,577





TR.



## Summit of Monte Rosa.

The *Nord End* was first ascended in 1855 by Sir T. and Mr. E. Buxton, and Mr. Cowell. The *Höchste Spitze* was ascended by the brothers Schlagintweit, by Messrs. E. G. and C. Smyth, and by Mr. E. S. Kennedy prior to 1853, but the point reached was about 18 ft. short of the highest summit. This was first attained in the latter year by Messrs. Hudson, G. and C. Smyth, Birkbeck, and Stevenson, accompanied by Ulrich Lauener, of Lauterbrunnen, and 3 Zermatt guides. This, the highest peak of the mountain, is called *par excellence* Monte Rosa.

The *Zumstein Spitze* was several times ascended by the intrepid explorer whose name it bears.

The *Signal Kuppe* was reached in 1842 by M. Gnifetti, the *curé* of Alagna.

Since 1860, the ascent of Monte Rosa has become very common; for, though it is more difficult and dangerous than Mt. Blanc, yet, by starting

from the Riffelberg, the expedition up and down again may be accomplished in about 14 hrs., and there is no necessity for sleeping out on the mountain. It takes from 7 to 8 hrs. to walk over snow and glacier, passing *Auf der Platte*, to reach the base of the cone forming the summit. Here the real difficulty begins. It is a very steep rock, its hollows filled with ice; and, though only 500 ft. high, requires nearly an hour to ascend, and as much to descend. The most difficult part of all is that which leads to the very highest point. The best guides should be taken, and the usual charge is 50 fr. each guide.

g. Those who do not intend crossing into the Val d'Aosta from Zermatt by the St. Theodule (Rte. 128) will be gratified by ascending to the highest point of the pass. The scenery is grand in the highest degree, and the excursion neither dangerous, difficult.

nor very fatiguing, unless the snow be very soft. It is possible to ride as far as the glacier in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Zermatt; it then takes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. fair walking to reach the summit of the pass, the view from which is indeed magnificent. The return to Zermatt may be made in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

From the hut on the col the *Breithorn* may be ascended in about 3 hrs., the descent will take about 2 hrs. The view from the summit is nearly equal to that from Monte Rosa.

*h. Zermatt to the Einfisch Thal* (Rte. 129). There are 2 glacier-passes from Zermatt to the Einfisch Thal, both difficult, and fit only for well-trained mountaineers. The more direct of the two is the *Trift Joch*, 11,601 ft. in height. Very dangerous *late* in the season. This is reached by ascending the ravine of the *Trift*, which opens close to the village of Zermatt, and then traversing the *Trift Glacier*, close to the base of the *Trifthorn*. A very steep slope of ice leads up to the pass, which is a mere gap in an extremely sharp ridge. The view from this point in both directions is extremely striking, and well worth an excursion from Zermatt. The descent towards the *Zinal Glacier* down a formidably steep precipice of rock tries the steadiness of both travellers and guides. From the base of the precipice the descent over the *Zinal Glacier* is not difficult, save that in one crevassed portion it is sometimes necessary to take to the rocks. This pass might with more advantage be taken from the *Zinal* side than from Zermatt. It is a day's work of 15 or 16 hrs., including the ordinary halts.

A longer, but for the most part less difficult, pass was effected by Mr. W. Mathews in 1859, and by Mr. Tuckett in 1860, by the *Col de la Dent Blanche*, at the extreme S. end of the *Zinal Glacier*. The most serious difficulty arises from a great *bergschrund* running across the upper part of the *Zinal Glacier*. In the latter part of the season this becomes a very serious obstacle. On reaching the summit from the *Zinal* side, one of the most striking views in the Alps is suddenly

presented. The peak of the *Matterhorn* in all its grandeur is seen exactly opposite, rising to the height of very nearly 15,000 ft., while the spectator is himself upon a terrace about 11,400 ft. above the sea. The *Zmutt Glacier*, filling the valley between, is reached by a steep descent, for the most part over the slopes of the *Eihorn*. At least 15 hrs. should be allowed for this expedition.

The great interest of the last-mentioned pass arises from the wonderful view of the *Matterhorn*. It is possible in a single day to combine the most interesting portions of both expeditions, and return to Zermatt in the evening. For this purpose the traveller should first ascend to the top of the *Trift Pass*, and then, returning to the foot of the *Trift Glacier*, ascend the shoulder of the *Gabelhorn*, until a point is gained nearly opposite the *Matterhorn*, the view of which can scarcely be surpassed by that from the *Col de la Dent Blanche*. From thence it is possible to descend the very steep southern slopes of the *Gabelhorn*, near to the lower end of the *Zmutt Glacier*; but as this is a matter of considerable difficulty, it should not be attempted unless there be time in case of failure to effect a retreat. It may be practicable to effect a passage between the peaks of the *Upper* and *Lower Gabelhorn*, and so reach the foot of the *Zmutt Glacier*, but this has probably not yet been attempted.

*i. Less difficult than the last-mentioned excursions is the ascent of the Mettelhorn on the N. side of the Trift ravine. The ascent is best made by following a narrow track, at first nearly due N. from Zermatt, then mounting by zigzags and bearing to the l. till the Trift glacier comes into view. From thence a direct ascent, partly over snow, and very steep towards the top, leads to the summit, 11,190 ft., 4 hrs. from Zermatt. The view is one of the most magnificent of ice scenes. It is a panorama of ice and snow, far superior to that from any other known mountain, equally accessible. The gigantic ice-cliffs of*

the Weisshorn are full in face to the W., the great Alpine range is on the S., the Saas Grat on the E., and the Oberland Mountains grandly close the Zermatt valley to the N. All the mountains seem to turn their most precipitous sides to the observer from this remarkable point. The climb is within the powers of a moderate pedestrian who has a good guide.

j. The passage from the Valley of Saas to Zermatt has been effected at 3 different points in the ridge of the Saas Grat. The most interesting, but also the highest and most difficult of these, is the *Adler Pass*, discovered in 1848 by M. Imseug, the well-known and much-respected *cure* of Saas. Starting from Zermatt or the Riffelberg, the track lies along and upon the *Findelen Glacier*, tending ultimately towards the extreme N.E. corner, where it abuts on the ridge connecting the Rymfischhorn with the Strahlhorn. The upper part is an extremely steep slope, partly ice and partly rock, where it is usually necessary to cut steps in the ice. From the summit the view is magnificent, and the descent to the inn at the Mattmark See is not difficult. If too much time has not been consumed on the way, it is quite possible to reach the summit of the *Strahlhorn*, which rises to the S.E. of the pass to a height of 13,750 ft. There is probably no one of the higher peaks of the Alps so well situated for a panoramic view; and the ascent, which may be accomplished in an hour from the summit of the Adler Pass, itself 12,461 ft. in height, is strongly recommended to adventurous alpine travellers.

The second pass, the *Allalein Pass*, is approached from the village of Täsch by the *Täsch Glacier*. It does not present any serious difficulty to practised mountaineers. The descent on the E. side leads to the inn at the Mattmark See.

A more direct pass from Täsch to Saas, instead of crossing on the S. side of the Allaleinhorn to the Allalein Glacier, passes on the N.W. side of that peak to the upper slopes of the *Fée Glacier*. This pass has been

lately made known by the Rev. L. Stephen. The ascent of the *Allaleinhorn* (13,235 ft.), first accomplished in 1856 by Mr. Ames, may be combined with either of the last-mentioned passes.

k. A difficult pass, called the *Schwarz Thor*, across the ridge of Monte Rosa, between the *Breithorn* and the western of the *Twins* (*Zwillinge*), and leading from the Riffelberg to the head of the valley of Ayas, is described in 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers.' Another, still higher, pass over the same range, between the Lyskamm and the highest peaks of Monte Rosa, leading direct to Gressonay, was effected in 1859. The height of this pass probably exceeds 13,500 ft.

l. The pass of the *Col d'Erin* is described in Rte. 132. The summit of the pass, and the *Tête Blanche* which rises 900 ft. above it, may be reached in a long day's excursion, returning to Zermatt in the evening.

The foregoing list may give some notion of the vast variety of interesting expeditions that may be made from Zermatt or the Riffelberg. The great majority of these involve a good deal of exertion, and many of them are fit only for thoroughly-trained mountaineers. It is, however, an error to suppose that those who have not the strength or activity to undertake difficult excursions may not find in the immediate neighbourhood of Zermatt, and the hotel on the Riffelberg, a vast variety of new combinations, including some of the grandest and most striking natural objects in the world. To such persons the chief obstacle is the distance to be travelled between Visp and Zermatt; but, since tolerably good accommodation is provided at St. Nicholas, the journey has been put within the reach even of delicate ladies.

## ROUTE 128.

ZERMATT TO CHATILLON, BY THE COL DE ST. THEODULE (OR MATTERJOCK) AND VAL TOURNANCHE; OR TO GRESSONAY, BY THE CIMES BLANCHES.

This is the easiest of the high glacier passes of the Alps, and on that account the most frequented. When the snow is very firm mules or horses can be taken across, and so long as the right direction is followed on the glacier there is no risk of any kind. No one should, however, attempt to pass it alone. In the very common case of clouds resting on the summit, it is very easy to miss the way, and fatal accidents have occurred from the neglect of the rope, which on this, as on every glacier pass where the ice is coated with snow, ought to be used, at least during bad weather and when the clouds lie low, not from any immediate apprehension of danger, but because it is the proper way of averting the possibility of it. The time requisite varies according to the state of the snow. An ordinary pedestrian may reach the summit in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Zermatt, Breuil in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. more, Val Tournanche in 2 hrs., and Châtillon in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Val Tournanche. An active pedestrian may reduce the time from  $12\frac{1}{2}$  to about  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. exclusive of halts.

At least 300 travellers, many of them ladies, cross in a year. The usual plan for ladies, is to take a mule from Zermatt for 2 hrs. (10 fr.), or 3 hrs. (15 fr.), which last brings them to the foot of the glacier. Mules can sometimes be taken across, but it is usual and better to walk over the glacier.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. up to the Col, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. down to the foot of the Fourneaux,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. short of Breuil, where mules can often be found in the season; or, if thought necessary, a guide may be sent on to order a mule from Breuil (6 fr.). The guides charge 15 fr. to Breuil or Val Tournanche, 20 fr. to Châtillon, and expect 1 or 2 fr. bonnemain.

By starting from the Riffelberg the ascent is shortened by half an hour, and this way is much the more interesting to pedestrians, because it leads right across the broad fields of the Gorner Glacier at a level where the ice has no concealed dangers, but mules can never be used. In crossing from the Italian side, the ascent to the Riffelberg will take rather more time than the descent to Zermatt. The path on leaving Zermatt takes the l. bank of the stream, and in about 15 min. crosses the torrent from the Zmutt glacier; it then winds amongst meadows and chalets towards the W. side of the Gorner glacier, and in 45 min from Zermatt begins to ascend the woods and pastures on the W. side of the Gorner Glacier. The torrent from the *Furgge* glacier, descending in a deep rift, is crossed, and after this the path becomes very steep. 2 hours from Zermatt the pastures are left, and the course becomes bad for mules, lying over rocks and loose schist, with no definite path, till in 1 hr. the glacier is reached. The glacier is steep but singularly smooth and free from crevasses. After about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. of glacier the rocks are taken for 15 min., and then an ascent of  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. again over the glacier leads to the Col. Here care is essential. There are always a few crevasses covered over, and highly dangerous to a straggler whenever snow has fallen freshly.

The summit of the pass of St. Théodule is 10,899 Eng. ft. above the level of the sea. The scene immediately around is one continuous ice-field. Then, the eye wanders over a vast intervening country to the Bernese Alps, sweeps round by the Breithorn and Monte Rosa, looks down upon a thousand peaks towards Piedmont, and rests upon that wonder of the Alps, the Cervin or Matterhorn, in immediate proximity.

On the actual crest of the Col there is some bare rock, and a little space so exposed that the snow cannot rest upon it. Here Saussure remained 3 days, with his son and attendants engaged in experiments at this ek-

vation. Traces of the rude cabins in which they sheltered still exist, and also of a redoubt thrown up 3 centuries ago by the Valaisans, and known by the name of Fort St. Théodule: displayed to mark the Swiss frontier along the crest of the Alps.

A hut was erected on this Col in 1854, where bread, cheese, and hot wine may be obtained during the summer. This is the highest habitation in Europe. A larger structure was commenced, but was blown down while still incomplete.

From the summit the descent towards the Val d'Aosta lies over the glacier for 40 min.; then a steep descent down rocks and loose rubbish called the Fourneaux for 45 min. At the foot of this, or even at the foot of the glacier, mules left by travellers on the ascent may often be found waiting during the season. 1½ hr. over pastures then brings you to the very comfortable

*Inn*: H. du Mt. Cervin, at Goemen, near Breuil, 3 hrs. from St. Théodule Pass, situated on an eminence overlooking the little plain of Breuil, and in the midst of very grand scenery, being surrounded on 3 sides by the most tremendous precipices, by snowy peaks and huge glaciers; over-head towers Mont Cervin, to the E. the Breithorn, and on the S. are seen the singular rocks called *Châteaux des Dames*. From Breuil the ascent of the Breithorn may be made more conveniently than from Zermatt, as well as many other excursions amongst the rocks and glaciers. Mules and side-saddles are to be found at Breuil. There is no occasion for a guide below Breuil. Descending to the little plain and following the l. bank of the stream, an extraordinary scene of devastation and desolation is crossed, then another little plain followed by another waste, and then another plain with the chalets of Aouet. The path then enters a ravine and follows a narrow ledge amongst magnificent scenery to the little chapel of N. D. de la Garde (1 hr. 15 min. from Breuil); near this the torrent below makes 1 or 2 fine waterfalls, and the

view looking back on Mont Cervin is very fine. A short and steep descent follows, and then the torrent is crossed to the rt. bank. 30 min. farther the path again crosses to the l. bank, and a short ascent leads to

*Val Tournanche* (*Inn*: H. du Monte Rose, homely but clean), a village finely situated on an eminence commanding a magnificent view down the valley, terminating with the snowy mass of the *Grand Paradis*.

A steep set of zigzags leads down to the bridge, which takes the path to the rt. bank.

The whole of the scenery below Val Tournanche is most magnificent. The valley is green and usually shaded with noble chestnuts and walnut trees; below foams the torrent, above on each side are tremendous rocks and precipices, and the Mont Cervin is frequently in view. About an hour below Val Tournanche some extraordinary remains of a *Roman Aqueduct* may be seen high up on the face of the rock, on the rt., and they are continued at intervals for several miles. The finest portion consists of several arches very perfect, in front of a nearly perpendicular cliff several hundred feet above the valley, nearly opposite the village of *Antey*, hanging like a picture against the rock. The road continues on the rt. bank for nearly 2 hrs., then crosses for about 10 min., and returns to the rt. bank for the rest of the way to Châtillon. The mule-track for the last 2 m. rises high above the stream, but pedestrians can find paths close to the stream and through green and shady meadows till close to Châtillon. This part of the valley is fearfully hot in summer, and should be passed early in the morning or late in the evening.

*Châtillon* (See Rte. 134.). *Inns* better at St. Vincent, lower down.

*Route Reversed*.—Guides, horses, and side-saddles will be found at Châtillon, at Val Tournanche, and at Breuil: the guides ask 20 fr. to Zermatt, with 1 or 2 fr. bonnemain. No guide is wanted up to Breuil; beyond that



place no one should attempt the Col without one. Antoine Pession of Val Tournanche is a good guide. Mule from Châtillon to Breuil 10 fr., Breuil to the glacier 5 or 6 fr. A short distance outside Châtillon a foot-path to the rt. goes along the stream through shaded meadows and joins the mule-path about 2 m. farther on. It takes 4 hrs. moderate walking to reach Val Tournanche, and about 2½ hrs. to go from thence to Breuil. 3 hrs. are quite sufficient for the ascent to the Col, unless there be much fresh snow; and 3½ hrs. or less will take the traveller from the summit to Zermatt or to the Riffelberg.

To reach the valley of Ayas from Zermatt by the Col de St. Théodule involves a much longer passage over glacier than in the ordinary route to Val Tournanche, but presents no difficulty unless after fresh snow, when it may be very fatiguing.

A little below the Col of St. Théodule, on the Italian side, the course turns off to the l. and descends over a plateau of snow to the chain of the Cîmes Blanches (1½ hr.), whence traversing the Aventina Glacier the châteaux of Aventina (1½ hr.) are reached, and in 2 hrs. more St. Giacomo d'Ayas. The Val d'Ayas may be descended to Brusson (Rte. 125), or the Betta Furca may be crossed to Gressonay. The accommodation at Aventina or at St. Giacomo is but of the poorest kind, but it is necessary to sleep at either place unless the traveller is able to push on to Gressonay, a very long day's walk.

[There is a pass, called the Col de Portola, from Antey in the Val Tournanche to Brusson in the Val Chablant, respecting which the Editor has received no information.]

## ROUTE 129.

ST. NICHOLAS TO SIERRE OR SUSTEN, BY THE SIMPLON, BY THE AUGSTBORD PASS TO GRUBEN IN TURTMAN THAL, AND BY Z'MEIDEN PASS TO ST. LUC IN VAL D'ANNIVIERS. [ASCENT OF BELLA TOLA.]

St. Nicholas	Hrs.
Jung Chapel . . . .	1½
Augstbord Pass . . . .	2½
Gruben . . . . .	2
Meiden Pass . . . . .	2½
St. Luc . . . . .	2½

This district was until lately seldom visited. Now that inns have been built at *Gruben* (Zmeiden) in the Turtman Thal; at *St. Luc*, and also at *Zinal*, in the Einfisch Thal (Val d'Anniviers); and at \**Ecolena*, in the Val d'Herens (d'Erin, or Eringer Thal); these valleys will probably be as much visited as any part of the Alps, the scenery being unsurpassed.

A steep bridle-path along the nearly precipitous rocks that rise on the W. side of the village of St. Niklaus leads to the châteaux and chapel of *Jung*, commanding a very fine view of the Saas Grat and Monte Rosa. Hence the old footway diverged over the Jung Joch. The present bridle-path over a different col is in every way preferable. 1 hr. further the crest of the valley is reached. Here a pile of stones (or "stein-mann") marks a magnificent view-point, including the Saas Grat, Aletsch Glacier, Weisshorn, and Monte Rosa. From thence the wild and rather dreary glen of the Ansborthal leads to the summit (? 8000 ft.) of the ridge, which, descending from the Weisshorn, separates the valley of S. Niklaus from the Turtman Thal. [The *Zeynten* (or *Dreizehnten*) Horn (10,521 ft.) may be hence ascended rt. in 1 hr. by a rough footpath practicable for ladies. It is a first-class view. The panorama is unbroken, except where the neighbouring Weisshorn shuts out the Matterhorn: the Aletsch Glacier is seen from top to bottom. The Oberland is fully de-

fined from the Diablerets to the Oldenhorn. There is some confusion of names between this mountain and the Lower Schwarzhorn (9593 ft.). The Zeyntenhorn lies E. of Gruben (by compass); the Schwarzhorn is N.E.] A long descent down a dreary valley leads to the châteaux of the Gruben Alp. Here the pathway becomes good. Thence to

*Gruben* (by the hamlet of Meiden or Zmeiden). (*Inn*: Weisshorn, fair, but dear, charmingly placed in a green meadow on the banks of the stream, with rocky knolls cropping out of the turf.) Guides and mules. Gruben is 6 hrs. from St. Niklaus. [The *Brunneghorn*, one of the peaks of the Weisshorn impending over St. Niklaus, was ascended in 1853 by M. Tantiogni, the curé of that village, with his curate.]

The *Turtman Thal* is a wild valley about 15 m. in length, from the point where its stream falls into the Rhone at Tourtemagne (*Inn*: \*Poste) (Rte. 59), to the great glacier on the N. side of the Weisshorn, whence it takes its rise. Though, in addition to numerous châteaux which are perched by the upper pastures above the valley, it contains several hamlets, these consist exclusively of *mayens*, which are inhabited for a few weeks only in the spring and autumn. A magnificent forest formerly occupied the lower part of the valley. It has lately fallen to the axe, and its remains are unsightly. The timber is partly floated, and partly taken by slides, down to Turtman, where it is sawn. The summer inhabitants of the Turtman Thal come from the German portion of the Valais; those of the Val d'Anniviers and Val d'Herens are French-speaking people of Latin origin, and are superior in point of appearance. These three valleys are free from crétinism.

*Gruben to Turtman* (Tourtemagne), on the Simplon Road (*Inn*: Poste) (Rte. 59), is a bridle-path of 3½ hrs. The road does not pass in sight of the waterfall behind that village.

*Turtman Glacier.* The valley may

easily be ascended to its head, 3½ m. from Gruben, and a visit made to this magnificent glacier. Mules can be taken past Zerbitzen, more than half way.

*From the Turtman Thal to the Val d'Anniviers (Einfisch Thal) by the Meiden Pass.*

There are two bridle-passes from the head of the Turtman Thal into the Einfisch Thal, called respectively (a) the *Meiden*—the easier (only 5 hrs.), (b) the *Pas de Bœuf* (7 hrs.), with the advantage of permitting the ascent of the Bella Tola by the way. A foot-path more southerly than either of these is the *Pas de la Forcletta* leading to Ayer. By this route an active pedestrian might probably reach Zinal in one long day from St. Niklaus.

*a. Meiden Pass.* Crossing the stream which descends from the great glacier of Turtman, now full in sight, an ill-defined path ascends the steep side of the valley opposite to Meiden. Keeping to the l. towards the upper part, it leads to a number of very poor châteaux perched on the brow of the mountain, overlooking the Turtman valley, and commanding a magnificent view of the Weisshorn, with its attendant glaciers. From this point to the top of the pass, which lies immediately to the rt. of some steep pinnacles of quartz rock, there is no well-defined track; the upper part of the way is very steep. The scene which presents itself on the south side of the path descending towards Luc is very wild and striking, having the appearance of a gigantic ruin, caused by the falling down of some of the pinnacles of quartz rock which form the main ridge. At length a point is attained which overlooks the *Einfisch Thal*, or *Val d'Anniviers*, one of the least known, most interesting, and most beautiful valleys in the Alps. From this point there is a good path to the village of

*St. Luc* (*Inn*: H. de la Bella Tola, good, civil landlord, who is also an

experienced guide), which is perched upon the steep E. slope of the valley, about 2000 ft., or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr., above Vissoye. From the village, which has been twice burned down since 1840, there is a magnificent view of the head of the valley, with the (here) chisel-shaped head of the Matterhorn, locally called Grande Couronne, towering over the Col de la Dent Blanche (Rte. 127 h). The *Pas de l'œuf* is somewhat more northerly.

$\frac{1}{2}$  hr. past the Col is a path that leads up to the \**Bella Tola*, or *Borternhorn* (9744 ft.) (here again is some confusion of names), a commanding point N.E. of St. Luc, whose summit is reached from thence in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The final ascent is easy, and occupies 1 hr. on foot. The view is magnificent, and 200 peaks of mountains are visible. Returning to the pathway of the *Pas de Bœuf*, the descent to St. Luc is easy.

The easiest way of entering the Val d'Anniviers is from Sierre in the Valais (Rte. 59). The lower part of the valley is a narrow defile abounding in striking points of view. A new road has been constructed, easier, though perhaps less picturesque than the old. Three tunnels have been bored through the projecting rocks. By this way Vissoye may be reached in 3 hrs. from Sierre.

[There is another bridle-path of much beauty into the Val d'Anniviers from *Susten*, on the Simplon Road, leading in 5 or 6 hrs. by the *Ill-see* and Chaudolin to St. Luc. The *Ill-see* is 7710 ft.; the col some hundred feet higher. By making  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. détour, a crest overlooking the precipice N. of the Illhorn may be visited. It is locally called the \**Eboulement* (or *Illgraben*). Here the whole side of a mountain seems to have given way, and fallen as a vast ruin into the valley, leaving a yawning gulf surrounded by crumbling and treacherous crags. The Illhorn (8937 ft.) may be ascended; but the view is not equal to that from either the *Bella Tola* or the *Zeyntenhorn*. The descent to Susten is very fine, passing through a dense forest of old pines, with peeps to the l. into

the *Illgraben*. After this are pastures and *châlets*, and then a second pine wood.]

A Scandinavian origin has been attributed to the population of this valley, but at present they speak a French *patois*, nearly identical with that spoken in the neighbouring Val d'Erin, and differing but little from that of the Val d'Aosta. They are more simple and also more courteous to strangers than in most of the districts which are frequently visited by tourists. Exposed but rarely to the contact of their fellow countrymen, their lives are passed between hard labour and the offices of religion, in both of which they are most diligent.

There are several populous villages in the valley, of which the chief is *Vissoye*, but there is no inn. There is a curious old castle, with its dungeon. [From a point called *Bec de Bossos* (11,000 ft.), between Vissoye and the Val d'Erin, there is a magnificent view extending from the Grand Combin to the Cervin and the Bernese Alps.] 2 m. above Vissoye, and 1 m. below the hamlet of *Cremenz*, the valley divides into two branches, of which the western, leading to the passes into the Val d'Erin, is called the *Val de Torrent*, while the eastern branch contains the stream descending from the great glacier of Zinal, and no one who is favoured by fine weather should omit to go as far as

*Zinal* (very tolerable little *Inn*, rough accommodation, good wine, civil people), the last hamlet in this branch of the valley,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Vissoye, passing *Ayer*, near which cobalt and nickel are found.

*Excursions*.—To the *châlets* of *Arp-tetta*, which command a magnificent view. Seen from this point, the W. side of the Weisshorn may rank with the E. side of Monte Rosa and the S. side of Mont Blanc among the grandest scenes in the Alps. Zinal is the best starting-point for the two glacier passes leading to Zermatt described in Rte. 127 k. A good guide named *Vieppin* lives there. Travellers from Zinal to Evolène may ride to the *châlets* near the foot of the

NUM BELLA IOLA.

Glacier de Torrent in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by the *Col de Sorrebois* (9259 ft.), commanding a magnificent view. Thence Evolena may be reached by the *Col de Torrent* in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. more.

In crossing the *Col de Sorrebois* from Zinal, sharp and steep zigzags lead up the face of the cliff to the only practicable place. Thence the path winds l. along its brow to extensive châteaux; a small lake is skirted, and rough upland pastures are crossed. The *Col* lies l. of the *Corne de Sorrebois*. The view comprises the *Weissborn*, standing without a rival. The descent is steep, but the path is improved. The glacier stream in the *Val de Torrent* is crossed by a bridge, and the massive *Glacier de Moiry*, which feeds it, fills the head of the valley. Hence *Cremenz* in 4 m., and thence *St. Luc* may be reached by turning down the valley to the rt., or the opposite side of the valley may be climbed to the *Col de Torrent*.

It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to *Cremenz*, thence  $1\frac{1}{2}$  up the *Torrent* valley to the bridge, where the route over the *Col de Sorrebois* falls in. Then ascend by the side of a mountain stream, with grand view of the *Moiry* glacier; a small lake is left on the l. in wild rock-strewn scenery. The *Col de Torrent* (9590 ft.) is marked by a cross. Here is an extensive view of the vast snow-fields to the S., and of a range of snow-mts. from the *Arolla* to the *Velan*. [The *Sussaneire* may be easily ascended.] This was the scene of a foul murder on July 23, 1863. Herr Quesnel, an Hanoverian lawyer of eminence, was the victim. The assassin was a well-known *mauvais sujet*, a Swiss Valaisian, who had once served in the Neapolitan army, and, having latterly escaped from an imprisonment for forgery, had taken to the hills to avoid capture. Here he was communicated with by his brother. Hearing that Herr Quesnel was about to cross the pass with a single guide, he built a screen of stones by the side of the cross, and awaited them gun in hand. As the travellers mounted the zigzags the guide caught sight of the screen. He picked up a bullet

and a powder-flask that had been dropped, and expressed some disquietude. However, they continued to climb to within 20 paces of the top, when the assassin began to fire. The guide fell severely wounded at once. Herr Quesnel, also wounded, turned and ran down hill, but was pursued and overtaken by the murderer, who shot him dead. The murderer then remounted to the wounded guide, to despatch him, but was turned from his purpose by the man's entreaties. He even bound up his wounds, and helped him over the col, where he left him. Here some shepherds found him in a miserable state, and took him to *Cremenz*. The murderer was ultimately captured; but while being transferred to *Berne*, in charge of 2 old gendarmes, by way of the *Simmenthal*, he made a sudden dash across the *Simmen*, a little below *Erlenbach*, and wholly escaped. The murderer and his brother were the only persons found implicated in the crime. The gendarmes were imprisoned for their carelessness.

#### *St. Luc to Evolena.*

The main stream is crossed immediately below *Vissoye*, and the track is well marked for some distance beyond the hamlet of *Cremenz*, where it becomes less distinct, being merged in cattle-tracks. There are three passes from the *Val de Torrent* into the *Val d'Erin*, all of about the same height.

(1) The *Pas de Torrent*, 8 hrs. distant from *St. Luc*. It is easily passable by travellers on horseback.

(2) *Pas de Lona* (10 hrs.). *Cremenz* is reached in 2 hrs. from *St. Luc*; thence 4 hrs. to the *Col de Lona* (8930 ft.) between the *Sassanière* (10,690 ft.) and the *Bec de Bossons* (10,370 ft.). The view from either is magnificent: the former is more easily climbed from the side of the *Col de Torrent*  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. down from the *Col* to *Eisen* and thence  $1\frac{1}{2}$  up the valley to *Evolena* (or 3 hrs. down the valley to *Sion*).

(3) In fine weather it is well worth while to choose that nearest to the Glacier de Torrent, called *Col de Bréona*, on account of the views to the southward and westward, which must be magnificent. This course would increase the length of the day's walk by about 2 hrs.

*Evolena* (very good Inn, Dent Blanche), a spot which, from the beauty and grandeur of the neighbouring scenery, will not fail to attract many tourists (see Rte. 131). At Useigne, about 3 hrs. from Evolena, are some remarkable *Earth Pyramids*, or pinnacles of gravel, from 50 to 200 ft. in height, each of them capped with a covering of turf or stone.

## ROUTE 131.

AOSTA TO EVOLENA AND SION, BY THE VALPELLINA AND COL DE COLLON.

An extremely interesting expedition over a high and difficult pass. The natives of Valpellina are shy and inhospitable, refusing to strangers not only the shelter of their houses, but even food and refreshment. The curé of Biona should be sought for by any one seeking shelter in the middle portion of the valley. Valpellina in the upper part is very grand.

The way follows the St. Bernard (Rte. 135) for a short distance; then turning downwards, crosses the St. Remy branch of the river Buttier, near its junction with the Valpelline branch, a very beautiful spot, and proceeds through rich fields to the village of *Valpellina*, 2½ hours. Here the valley narrows, and the ascent becomes rapid. Passing the village of *Oyace*, picturesquely situated on a high barrier of rock which crosses the valley (1 hour 40 minutes), you reach in another hour *Biona*, and in 2½ hours

more the chalets of *Prerayen*: total from Aosta, 7½ hours of rapid ascent. Cultivation extends high up the valley, which lies exposed to the afternoon sun, and is very hot. There is a good horse-road to Prerayen, where the chalets afford somewhat better quarters than most of those in Piedmont. There is no inn anywhere in the Valpelline, but the curé of Biona will receive travellers. Be cautious about engaging guides in this valley.

The head of the valley is bounded by a very grand chain of snowy mountains, branching from the main chain at the Dent d'Erin, and separating the Valpelline and Val Tournanche. [From a little below Prerayen there is a pass leading to Val Tournanche (Rte. 128) in about 6 hrs. The ascent is very steep but not dangerous, and the views very fine. Another pass more to the N. is said to lead to Breuil. From Biona there is a high glacier pass, the *Col de Crête Sèche*, leading to the Val de Bagnes. On the S. side of the valley from below Prerayen there is also a pass leading by the Val St. Bartelemi to the Val d'Aosta, between Aosta and Châtillon. See Rte. 134.]

In ascending to the Col de Collon, the way lies up a steep lateral valley, which joins the main stream a little below Prerayen. It is nearly an hour's walk to the foot of the great moraine. The glacier has retreated from it a good half-mile during the last thirty years; on the side of Evolena, on the contrary, the ice has not diminished. There are two practicable routes to the upper plateau of the glacier; one over rocks, which Professor Forbes took in 1842, usually the preferable course, the other following the bottom of the valley to the foot of the glacier, which is to be mounted by climbing steep slopes of frozen snow, not without difficulty. These being surmounted, a broad plain and two or three long slopes lead to the Col. The glacier on this side does not seem dangerous.

"The height of the Col, by Professor Forbes's measurement, is 10,333 English feet. To the left is a crest of

rocks, in a cleft of which is stuck a small iron cross, dated 1754. A hard varnish of rust is formed on it, which seems to protect the metal from further decay. The view from the Col is very grand. No distance, however, is visible; nothing but spires of rock and swells of snow.

"The descent towards Evolena is more dangerous, the glacier, which on this side is called Arolla, being much more extensive, and more crevassed. Some years ago a party of villagers from Evolena being overtaken by the tourmente on the upper part of the glacier, 3 of them were lost. Professor Forbes in crossing this pass found the skeleton of one. After descending direct from the Col for some distance, it is necessary to keep to the rt. or E. side of the glacier and take to the rocks, in order to avoid a precipitous ice-fall which is quite impassable. The descent over steep rocks and snow requires caution. At the foot of this descent you return to the glacier, here free from snow, and leaning to the l., finally leave it close to its foot. In a favourable state of the glacier it takes 4 hrs. to ascend from Prerayen, and 2½ hrs. to descend to the foot of the glacier. The valley as we descend is close and winding, so that no distant views can be had; but it is of the grandest character.

"The lofty jagged ridge to the east, which divides the glacier of Arolla from that of Ferpêcle, is called by Professor Forbes the Dents des Bouquetins. [To the west, another very grand glacier descends from the other side of the Mont Collon, but it is doubted whether the ridge can be crossed which divides it from the Chermontane glacier at the head of the Val de Bagnes.] There is a chalet near the foot of the glacier, where it is possible to pass the night. From the foot of the glacier to Evolena is about 4 hours of very grand and beautiful scenery. Total from Prerayen to Evolena, about 10½ to 11 hrs.

*Evolena* (Inn: Hôtel de la Dent Blanche, very good),

Many interesting excursions may be made from hence, some of which are noticed in Rte. 129. The scenery of the *Val d'Erin*, or *Val d'Hérens*, is very beautiful; but until the new inn was opened at Evolena no decent lodging was to be found in the valley. It is a walk of 6 hrs. from Evolena to Sion, fully 7 ascending the valley from Sion. 2 hrs. from Evolena is the fine waterfall of la Villetta. The traveller may here choose between a path on the rt. bank of the Borgne, through *Trogne* 1 hr., *Moy* 1 hr. 35 min., *Bramois* 1 hr. 35 min., Sion 50 min.; or he may cross the torrent and follow its l. bank to *Useigne*, a little below which the main stream of the Borgne is joined by the *Dixence* flowing from the *Val d'Herémence*, a wild and unfrequented valley. [About 3 hrs. above *Useigne* are the chalets of *Miribi*, from whence it is possible to return to Evolena by the *Col de Maigne* in 6 hrs. At the head of the *Val d'Herémence* is a difficult glacier pass, the *Col du Mont Rouge*, leading to the head of the *Val de Bagnes*. That pass may also be reached, by crossing the intermediate ridge, from the chalets near the foot of the glacier of Arolla.] From the village of *Herémence*, just below the fork of the valley, it is a walk of ¾ hrs. to Sion. (See Rte. 56.)

## ROUTE 132.

### EVOLINA TO ZERMATT. COL D'ERIN

Time, when the snow is in good order, 12 hrs., excluding stoppages. It might take much more. It would be imprudent to allow less than 16 hrs., including necessary halts. It is possible to pass the night at the



châlets of Abricolla, and this has hitherto been the usual practice among the few mountaineers who have followed the footsteps of Professor Forbes in this very grand but laborious expedition. It is a question whether, with a moonlight night, it would not be better to start from the comfortable inn at Evolena about 2 A.M., halting for breakfast at the châlets, where milk can be obtained.

An hour above Evolena the valley forks into two branches; the one leading to the glacier of Arolla and Col de Collon, the other to the glacier of Ferpêcle and Col d'Erin, as Forbes has called it; the pass being apparently without a name in the country. The scenery of the latter branch is even finer than that of the former. From the hamlet of *Haudères*, near the junction, to the foot of the glacier, there is a rapid ascent. The termination of the glacier is remarkably fine. The ice is pure, and very high, ending on one side in a vertical section cresting a precipice; on the other sweeping grandly over it; and the effect is much increased by the near neighbourhood of finelarches.

From hence a rapid ascent, skirting deep precipices, leads to the châlets of *Abricolla*, distant about 3 hours from Evolena. They are rude and more dirty than is usual in Switzerland; and the traveller who means to sleep at them should take up straw from below. The view from these heights is extremely fine.

"Started from Abricolla at half-past four: and by the advice of one of the Fulloniers, who accompanied us part of the way, we kept gradually ascending along the mountain side, instead of descending, as Forbes had done, to the glacier—a depth of several hundred feet perpendicular. In about an hour we reached the glacier, which was then a dazzling sheet of snow, hard frozen, and inclined at an angle which rendered great caution necessary in traversing it. Less than an hour brought us to the edge of a precipice, opposite to a bare rock in the middle of the ice, called *Motta Rotta*. Here the sun had melted out

space enough just to form a narrow, slippery, and dangerous path, along which we proceeded eastward, shouldering the ice on one side, and with the deep precipice on the other. At the end of it we dismissed Fullonier, having passed the difficulties on this side of the passage. From hence to the level of *Motta Rotta* is a succession of slopes, free from danger, and from that level an immense undulating snow plain extends to the Col, which lies to the right of a slightly elevated point, called by Professor Forbes the *Stockhorn*, the height of which he makes 11,760 feet, 600 feet higher than the Col du Géant. We reached it in 3 h. 20 m. from the châlets of Abricolla; 6½ hrs. from Evolena, having gained an hour on Professor Forbes by the new route. His route lay at the foot of the precipice along the top of which we had passed. (According to the measurements executed for the Swiss Federal map, the height of the Col is 11,408 Eng. ft., or 352 ft. less than that given by Professor Forbes. The name *Stockhorn* is applied by Studer to the rocks E. of the Col rising in the midst of the *Zmutt Glacier*.)

"The Col is formed by a ridge extending from the *Dent Blanche* (which lies between the valleys of Anniviers and of *Zmutt*) to the main chain between the *Dent d'Erin* and the *Mont Collon*. It thus encloses the great glacier of *Zmutt*, which it separates from the glacier of *Ferpêcle*. Professor Forbes rates the view above any that he had seen in the higher Alps, even above that from the Col du Géant. The spectator is centrally placed between the *Cervin*, the *Dent d'Erin*, and the *Dent Blanche*, with the whole chain of *Monte Rosa* in full view. To these is to be added the *Strahlhorn*, between which and *Monte Rosa* the pass of the *Weissthor* is seen, at the same, or a higher, level on which he stands. None of these mountains is less than 14,000 feet high.

"There are two possible descents; one down the face of the cliff, a little W. of the *Stockhorn*, which Professor Forbes tried in 1842; and failed to

achieve, owing to a precipice of some 30 feet, next the ice, which could not be passed. He was therefore driven to take the way which I followed, still further to the W., which, though involving a considerable circuit, I should think always preferable, unless the glacier below were in a very dangerous state. The descent is shorter, and less rapid, and the rocks are masked by slopes of snow, which however are steep enough to present dangers of their own. The upper basin of the Zmutt glacier being thus reached, a black blunt point in the chain of rocks which holds up this upper glacier serves for landmark: but as the ice is much crevassed, there is many a circuit to be made; and the passage took a good hour. The next descent is over a slope of rocks, ending, within 100 ft. of the bottom, in a precipice, down which it is possible to descend by a very steep couloir, when the glacier, which is here considerably inclined, is in too bad a state to traverse higher up. In 1843 the quantity of snow rendered it possible to reach and traverse the lower glacier to the W. of the couloir; and we struck across in the direction of Mont Cervin, and reached the lateral moraine at 12 h. 15 m., having left the Col at 8 h. 30 m. Another hour brought us off the ice; and 1½ hour more to

*Zermatt* (Rte. 127).

In 1853 an English traveller crossed this pass from Zermatt alone. He did so without accident, though it was generally believed by the natives that he must have perished in the attempt. Every man must be supposed the best judge of the value of his own neck, but it should be generally understood that such an exploit is a proof, not of courage, but of ignorance or foolhardiness. No amount of skill or experience can secure a traveller against the common accident of a snow-bridge giving way, against which the rope affords effectual security, but which involves all but certain destruction to the solitary traveller.

## ROUTE 134.

TURIN TO AOSTA AND COURMAYEUR, BY  
IVREA.—BIELLA.—THE VAL D'AOSTA.

	Kil.	Eng. m.
Turin.		
Chivasso } Rail { 22 = 14		
Ivrea } { 32 = 20		
Donas . . . . .	20	= 12
Châtillon . . . . .	24	= 15
Aosta . . . . .	24	= 15
Courmayeur . . . . .	41	= 25

The journey from Courmayeur to Turin may be made in 1½ day, sleeping at Aosta, or in 1 very long day.

Railways, constructed by English engineers, from Turin to Ivrea; and a continuation to Aosta and even a tunnel to Martigny have been talked of.

At Chivasso Junct. Stat., a town of some 8000 Inhab., the main line from Turin to Novara is left, and a branch goes to

*Caluso* Stat. Omnibuses to the neighbouring towns meet the trains.

[From Caluso an excursion may be made to *Biella* (Inns: Corona, best: Testa), a town situated on the Cervo, one of the affluents of the Sesia, now the terminus of a branch Rly. from Turin. Population about 9000. It has some trifling manufactories of paper, common woollen goods, and hats. Obs. The Ch. of St. Sebastian. the pillars dividing nave from aisle seem to be Roman, and the vaulted roof is elegantly painted.

The sanctuary of *Notre Dame d'Oropa*, 6 m. distant, by a steep but good carriage-road, is an object of attraction, which brings crowds of pilgrims to offer their devotions: an image, one of the thousand black specimens of bad carving, which under the name of *Our Lady*, is worshipped for its miracle-working powers: that of Oropa is said to have been carved by Saint Luke, who made a sculptor as well as a painter, and is stated to have been brought by St. Eusebius from Syria, and preserved by him in the then wild and

desert mountain of Oropa. A series of steep tourniquets leads to the Church dedicated to the Virgin, which is a fine structure of the 14th and 15th centuries. Painting and sculpture have adorned and enriched it; and among the artists employed are found the names of *Gaudenzio Ferrari* and *Luino*. At the angles, in the zig-zag ascent to the church, there are erected more than twenty-four chapels, dedicated to the Virgin, and named after some event in her life, as, the Chapel or Oratory of the Annunciation—of the Purification—of the Assumption, &c., or to some Romish saint.

*Railway* from Biella to Turin, 84 kil. (51 miles). It joins the line from Novara at Santhià, 19 m. distant, and reaches Turin in 2 hrs. 50 min. Biella is in the *Canavese*, a district devoted to the growing of hemp.]

*Val d'Aosta—Ivrea to Courmayeur*.—No good Inns below Aosta, but Rosa Rossa and Baths of St. Vincent.

*Ivrea* (Inns: H. de l'Europe, cuisine fair; many complaints of bad treatment and extortionate charges;—Lion d'Or) is a large walled town at the entrance of the Val d'Aosta. The entrance is highly picturesque, across the deep bed of the Doire, which flows immediately below the *Porte de Turin*. It contains about 8000 Inhab. Here large markets are held, to which cheese and other pastoral produce of the Alps are brought. It is also a depôt for the iron which is obtained near Cogne, and from other mines worked in the valley. Here also some cotton-works have been established.

Here is a picturesque and interesting massive old Castle, degraded into a prison, and disfigured with modern windows, &c. The battlements and machicolations of two of its towers remain. These, and the old walls from many points of view, furnish good materials for the sketch-book. The small isolated hills scattered along the sides of the stream, as outposts of the Alps, and often crowned by some crumb of a wall of a feudal castle, are very picturesque seen over the thicket of rich vegetation, and

backed by the Alps. This town, or city, as it is called—as the seat of a bishop—is the southern gate to the Val d'Aosta. It is of great antiquity, and mentioned by many ancient authors under the name of *Eporedia*. Strabo says that here the unfortunate Salassi, made prisoners by Terentius Varro, when these brave people of the Val d'Aosta were subdued, were sold as slaves by public auction to the number of 36,000. The Marquis of Ivrea was in the middle ages a powerful potentate.

The rly. ends at Ivrea, but there is a good carriage-road as far as Courmayeur.

*Diligences*, very slow but cheap, to Aosta, Pré St. Didier, and Courmayeur.

The Val d'Aosta is one of the most beautiful in the Alps, and well merits exploring. Yet from Ivrea (inclusive) to Courmayeur it has hardly one tolerable Inn, excepting Tairraz's excellent H. de Mt. Blanc at Aosta.

On leaving Ivrea, on the rt. is a vast ridge of alluvium, the Monte Bolegno, which stretches into the plains. The road ascends on the left bank of the Doire, passes below the old Castle of Montalto, well preserved with its towers and battlements, and picturesque in its form, and continues through the rich broad valley of the Doire—broad enough to constitute a part of the plain, for at Settimo Vittone, 3½ leagues, the ascent has been so gradual as scarcely to have been perceived. Nor is it, in fact, until the traveller reaches

*Pont St. Martin* (Inn: Rosa Rossa, fair) that he may be said to have fairly entered this valley of the Alps.

The situation of this village is strikingly fine at the entrance to the Val de Lys, stretching up to the foot of the glaciers of Monte Rosa (Rte. 124), which will well repay the explorer.

The lofty arch which here spans the torrent of the Lys (about 20 yards higher than the new bridge) is one of the finest Roman works of its class in the valley: it now serves to communicate with the Val de Valles, and is a striking object. The road to

Aosta is carried over a modern bridge. Above St. Martin are ruins of a large *Castle*.

After crossing the Lys at a short distance from its confluence with the Doire, the road ascends to

*Donas*, where a Roman work—a pierced rock—is passed through, and near to it is a Roman milestone cut in the rock, noting xxxii. MP. A tolerable *wine* is grown at Donas.

From Donas the road ascends abruptly for a short distance, and close to the Doire, which it steeply overhangs, to

*Fort Bard* (*Inn*: Sole, poor and dirty), celebrated for the temporary check of 8 days which it gave to the advance of the French army under Buonaparte, in 1800. At that time the only road ran through the town under the fort. It was garrisoned by only 400 Austrians, yet such was the strength of the position that Buonaparte almost despaired of carrying it, and a few days more must have starved his army into a retreat. By a gallant manœuvre, however, in the efficient placement of a single gun, above the precipices of the Mont Albaredo, which overhangs Bard, the French checked the battery which covered the approach to the town, and the army passed by night, dragging their guns through the street laid with straw to prevent the noise alarming the garrison, under the grenades and *pots de feu* thrown by the fort. Another gun was raised to a belfry which commanded the gate of the fort; and the Austrians, fearing an assault, surrendered. Upon such slight occurrences the fate of Europe turned. As the French army would have devoured all the supply of the Val d'Aosta in a few days, it must have retreated; and the battle of Marengo, one of the most brilliant events of French history, would not have been fought. The fort has been greatly strengthened, and it is now considered impregnable.

The modern road skirts round the other side of the rock on which the Fort stands, avoiding the steep and narrow street of Bard. [It opens out the

valley of *Champorcher*, whence a path leads, by the village of *Port Bosel*, to the *Col de Champorcher* in 6 hrs., and by this pass and the valley of the Soanna to Ponte in the Val d'Orca. (Rte. 146.) From the chapel of *Notre Dame de la Neige*, at the head of the valley, there is a pass direct to *Cogne*, which may be reached in 10 hrs. from Fort Bard.]

The view looking back upon Fort Bard is a perfect picture, not to be surpassed in its kind.

Above Bard the main valley is narrow, and offers little variety in ascending by the deep and rapid course of the Doire to

*Verrex* (*Inn*: Ecu de France—extortion; Couronne),  $2\frac{1}{2}$  leagues from Pont St. Martin, situated at the entrance to the *Val Challant* (Rte. 125). Here many improvements have been made, especially in the construction of a new bridge and many new houses.

Here is a large square keep of the *old Castle*, which overhangs the Val Challant. It is a picturesque object from below, and the scenes from it are worth a scramble to the ruins. Here is also a convent of Augustines.

Above Verrex the valley widens, and the little plain of the Doire shows the violence of the torrent in the sands and rocks left by it in the spring.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  league beyond Verrex the road enters upon one of the most remarkable scenes in the valley—a deep ravine, through which the Doire has cut its way, or found in such a gulf its natural channel. The road ascends steeply on the left of the river, and is cut out of the rock, in some places overhanging the foaming torrent. These rocks are surmounted by the ruins of the *Castle of St. Germain*, placed so as effectually to command the pass.

The road cut out in so remarkable a way was probably a Roman work, though a modern inscribed table denies them the credit. It was repaired by the inhabitants of Aosta. This defile is called the pass of *Mont Joret*—the wine in its neighbourhood is celebrated. From the head of the pass the view down the valley is very

striking. Immediately above it the finest part of the Val d'Aosta extends to the *Cité*, as Aosta is called.

Nothing can exceed the beauty and richness of the scenery, and the magnificent character of the foliage; the walnut and chestnut trees are celebrated for their grandeur and picturesque-ness.

Before arriving at St. Vincent, a singular bridge over a deep ravine is crossed. It is called the Pont des Sarasins, and by antiquaries is recognised as a Roman work. From its parapet one of the most beautiful scenes in the valley is presented on looking up towards Châtillon, including among its objects the Castle d'Usselle and other ruins. Not far from this bridge is the agreeable village of

*St. Vincent* (Inns: Ecu de France; at the Succursale or private establishment of the Lion d'Or good and clean accommodation far better than at Châtillon.) Here is a *Bath-house* supplied from a mineral spring in the Forest above.  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour's walk higher up is

*Châtillon* (Inns: none good; Palais Royal; Lion d'Or). The bridges are the only remarkable objects here, but there are pleasant walks and several châteaux in the neighbourhood. That over which the high road now passes is a very fine single arch, thrown across a deep gulf. From it are seen, further down the torrent, the remains of a *Roman bridge*, also a single, and still an entire arch; and immediately over it another bridge, now superseded.

In the depth of the gulf, and a little up the stream, are forges, strangely placed there, for the sake of the water-power in working the tilts; a wild path leads down to them, and the view of the bridges from the bottom of the ravine forms one of the most striking scenes in the valley.

Here the Val Tournanche opens out, up which runs the path to the Pass of St. Théodule (Rte. 128) 14 hrs.

Above Châtillon the same fine rich character of scenery prevails, only interrupted by the occasional traces of destruction left by the torrents which

in the spring rush down from the lateral valleys into the Doire.

About a league above Châtillon is the village of *Chambave*, celebrated for its wine, one of the richest and most *recherché* in Piedmont. The wine of the Val d'Aosta has a great reputation, and the vine is cultivated on the mountain sides to an elevation of 3000 ft. above the level of the sea. In the valley, hemp, Indian corn, and fruit-trees fill the plain like a vast garden.

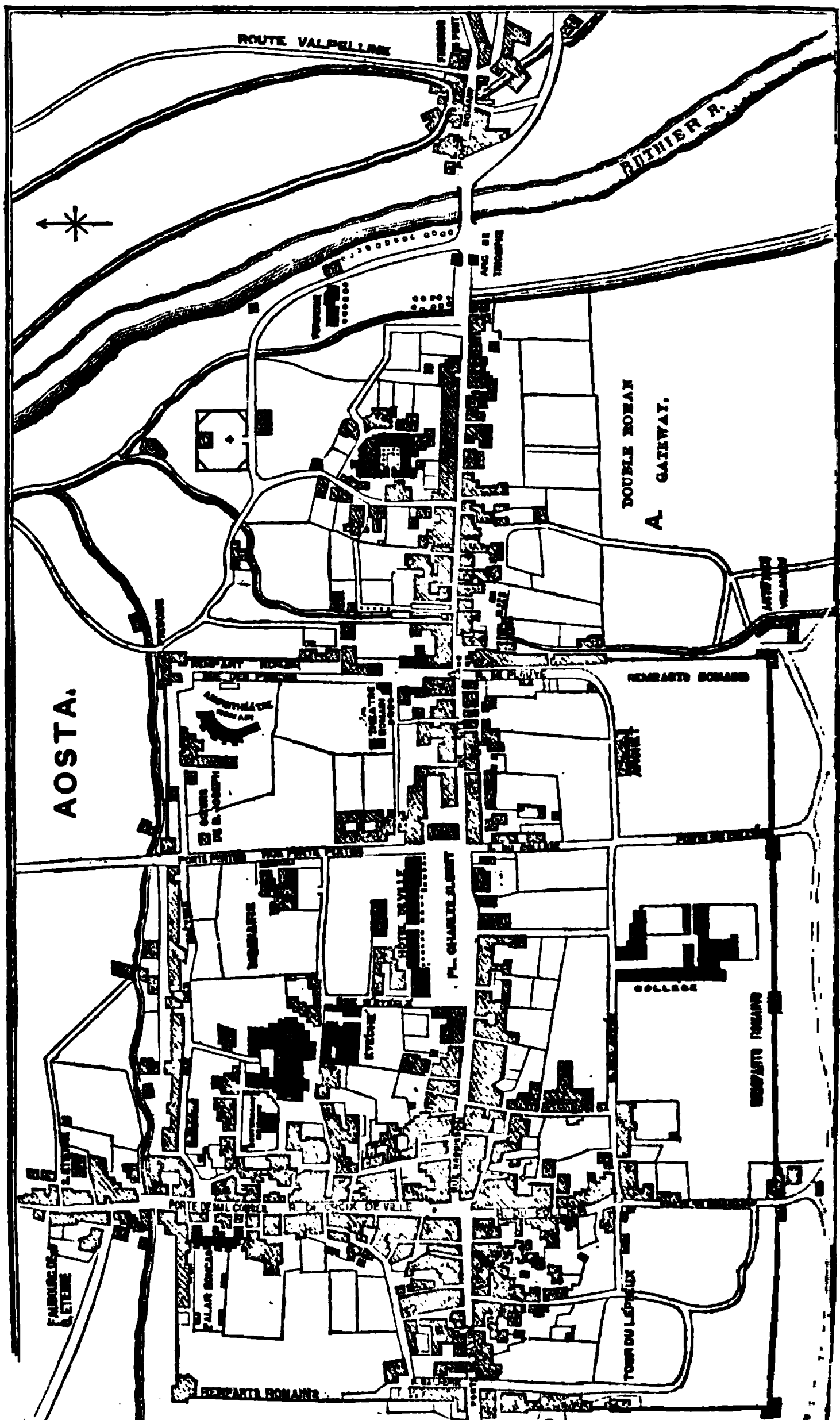
*Nuz*, a poor village with the ruins of a château, is nearly half-way between Châtillon and Aosta. At the entrance of the Val de St. Barthélémi is the picturesque castle of Fenis.

[Three passes lead from the *Val de St. Barthélémi* to the Val Pellina. The least difficult is the *Col de Vessoney*, leading to *Oyace* (Rte. 131). An easier pass, called the *Fenêtre de St. Barthélémi*, goes from the village of the same name to Antey in the Val Tournanche. There is no *Inn*, but the curé of St. Barthélémi will receive strangers. The Piedmontese government-map is quite useless in this district.]

Near *St. Marcel* are copper-mines, and a remarkable fountain, called *Fontaine Bleue*, of blue water, impregnated with copper.

On the approach to Aosta the *Château Quart* is seen placed high on the mountain side; a path leads up to it from near Villefranche, and down on the other side of its glen towards Aosta, so that a visit to it requires no retracing of steps, and the beautiful scenes presented in the ascent and at the château, which is now a Hospital, repay the trouble of climbing thither. Little more than a league further up the valley is

AOSTA (Inns: H. du Mont Blanc, well kept by J. Tairraz. best in Val d'Aosta, good; Couronne (Post), improved; Ecu du Valais, in the Town-hall, well spoken of), a city of 7700 Inhab.; of small importance in trade, wealth, or population, but attractive to a stranger, as a genuine Italian town of old houses,





broad eaves, picturesque but dilapidated buildings, and lazy lounging population. Its situation is indeed striking, near the confluence of the *Buttier* and the *Doire*, in a deep rich valley, surrounded by lofty and snow-capped mountains, which peer down into its squares and streets. Aosta, the *Augusta Prætorium* of the Roman itineraries, claims a high antiquity. It was known under the name of *Cordèle*, as the chief city of the *Salassi*: its history earlier than its conquest by *Terentius Varro*, a general of *Augustus*, is fabulous. By the army of the emperor it was taken 28 years before the Christian era, and its inhabitants reduced to miserable captivity. *Augustus* rebuilt the city, gave his own name to it, and established there 3000 soldiers from the *Prætorian* cohorts. The remains of large public buildings attest its importance at that time, and though much inferior in beauty and extent to those of the S. of France, will yet be viewed with interest.

In the main street at the E. entrance of the town is a *Triumphal arch*, erected in honour of *Augustus*, in tolerable preservation, decorated with 10 *Corinthian* pillars, covered with a modern roof, adorned with green and gold weathercocks. This is one of the finest of the remains.

About 200 yards to the E. of the arch, in a narrow street, is a Roman *bridge*, which once spanned the *Buttier*, though now 100 yards E. of it. It is buried to a considerable depth by soil. A conduit of water runs under it, and by its side a path; so that you can walk under the arch, which is a fine piece of masonry. In the convent-garden of *St. Joseph* are the ruins of a *Basilica* or *Prætorian* palace, towers, walls, and fragments of unknown former appropriation, now serving only to perplex antiquaries. The plan of Aosta, like that of other Roman cities, was a square, and the chief streets crossed in the centre. The triumphal arch stood outside of the town, in front of the chief gateway. This, the ancient *Porta Prætorium*, now called

*Porte de la Trinité*, is still in good preservation, though much of the casing of hewn stone which covered it has been removed. It has two façades, with a quadrangle between them, each façade composed of three arches—that in the centre is much the largest.

The *Roman walls*, flanked with towers, are most accessible and in best preservation on the S. side of the town.

There are 2 curious mediæval towers, *Porte de Bramafam* and *Tour du Lepreux*. The latter is the scene of *Xavier de Maistre's* well-known tale.

On the N. of the main street is the *Cathedral*, modern, and covered with paint and whitewash. The woodwork of the stalls in the choir is said to be of the 14th cent. See monuments of *Duke Thomas of Savoy*, of several bishops; and in the *Trésor*, antique plate, shrines, diptychs. On the N. side of the ch. is a *Romanesque* cloister, with the names of its founders worked in the capitals of the pillars.

E. of the cathedral is the more curious ch. of *St. Ours*, with a very old crypt under the choir. On the S. side of the ch. is another *Romanesque* cloister of very early date; the carving of the capitals is remarkable.

Aosta has been much improved since 1854, the chief square is enlarged, and there is much new and handsome building, a *Hôtel de Ville*, &c., which is the head-quarters of the *Italian Club Alpino*, to which members of foreign clubs are welcomed. It is the seat of a bishop. A military commandant is also stationed here.

*Anselm*, archbishop of *Canterbury* in the 11th century, was born at Aosta, and is buried in the cathedral. An inscribed stone records the flight of *Calvin* from Aosta, 1541.

*St. Bernard*, whose name is immortally associated with the mountain pass from the valley of the *Rhone* to the valley of the *Doire*, was archdeacon of Aosta; and his knowledge, from his situation, of the exposure and sufferings of those who traversed



neighbouring mountains, and even bouquetins or steinbocks are not unknown. Late in the autumn ptarmigan are abundant.

Courmayeur is much resorted to in summer by invalids, for the sake of its mineral waters. The spring of La Victoire is half a league to the S.W.; its waters are impregnated with carbonic acid gas, sulphate of magnesia, and a little iron, and have a temperature of about 54. The spring of La Marguerite varies a little in the proportions of its components, but its temperature is 12 degrees higher. The Piedmontese have great reliance on the salutary effects of these mineral springs, and the resort to them brings together much agreeable Italian society.

The baths of *La Saxe* are about 1 m. beyond the village, and are somewhat rough.

The guides and mules were placed in 1860 on the same footing as those at Chamouni, except that, on payment of a small fee, the traveller is able to select whom he pleases. The guide's charges are 6 fr. for a day; 3 fr. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day, viz. before or after 12 o'clock. Otto Bion and Valentine Ray are 2 of the best. There is a family of several brothers named Proment, who are also good guides.

*a. Ascent of the Cramont.*—An excursion which no visitor to St. Didier or Courmayeur should fail to make if the weather be favourable, for no spot in the Alps will afford him so fine a view of Mont Blanc, or a more glorious panorama.

From Courmayeur it is necessary to go to Pré St. Didier, 1 hr., then ascend by the road leading to the Little St. Bernard (Rte. 149) for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.; a path then strikes to the rt. amongst the larches, and ascends through them and past several clusters of chalets for about 2 hrs. Mules cannot go beyond the larches, and must be left, and from this point there is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s climb to the summit: total, 5 hrs. from Courmayeur. There is a more direct but difficult and disagreeable path for pedestrians.

The highest point of the Cramont

is the outer edge of a large slab or flat mass of rock, sloping at an angle of  $20^\circ$  towards the S.; the upper end of this mass actually overhangs the rocks below, so that a stone dropped from it would fall perpendicularly hundreds of feet, and then striking the precipitous sides of the mountain, would bound into the abyss beneath, broken into fragments. In this savage hollow chamois are often seen.

Hence the whole of the enormous mass of Mont Blanc is open to the observer: midway of its height (for the height of the Cramont is 9040 ft. and that of Mont Blanc 6500 ft. above the peak of the Cramont), from the peaks which bound the Col de la Seigne to those of the Grand Jorasse, every aiguille and glacier through this vast line of nearly 30 miles is seen, within an angle of  $150^\circ$ , lying like a picture before the observer from the Cramont. The depths of the Allée Blanche are concealed by some low intervening mountains, which may be considered the western bases of the Cramont.

Towards the E. the Val d'Aosta presents a beautiful portion of the panorama. The mountains which bound it sweep down to the Doire, and leave between them the channels which are the courses of its affluents. In the valley the Doire appears like a thread of silver. Farther to the E., in the distant background, are the summits of Monte Rosa and the Mont Cervin. Looking S.E., directly down the line of ascent to the Cramont, the Camp of Prince Thomas, and the table-land above the precipices of the valley of La Tuille, appear to be immediately beneath. Above and beyond it lies the enormous glacier of the Rutor, one of the finest objects within the view: this is connected with the glaciers at the head of the valleys of Cogne, the Savaranche, and the Grisanche.

Towards the S. is the pass and plain of the Little St. Bernard, guarded by the Belvedere, the Vallaisan, and the other mountains which bound that pass.

Towards the Great St. Bernard the course may be traced of the path which leads by the pass of the Serena from the head of the valley of Aosta to St. Remy. The hospice cannot be seen, but the Mont Velan and the Combin are seen beyond it.

Saussure thus records his second visit to the Cramont:—"Nous passâmes trois heures sur ce sommet; j'y en avois aussi passé trois dans mon premier voyage; et ces six heures sont certainement celles de ma vie dans lesquelles j'ai goûté les plus grands plaisirs que puissent donner la contemplation et l'étude de la nature."

The descent requires more care than the ascent, at least to guard against slipping: the guides usually sit down, and slide with great speed over the dry grass.

The traveller who proposes to make a visit to the Cramont a part of his day's journey to St. Maurice, should start very early, and direct that the mules, if he take any, should, from where he left them, be sent across the pasturages, to châteaux which lie in his way to the village of La Balme. He will thus gain time in ascending the valley, though the descent to the hamlet of Eléva, down a steep and rugged path over loose stones, is fatiguing. La Balme is in the valley, about an hour's walk above where the path up through the forest leads to the Cramont; and there is no object of interest missed between the two places.

b. To the Col de Checruit, highly to be recommended on account of the splendid and uninterrupted view of the chain of Mt. Blanc and the Allée Blanche. It lies due W. of Courmayeur, and may be made on a mule (2 hrs. to the Col). You cross the Doire, through the village of Dolina, then along the l. bank of the torrent or ravine leading to the Col for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Courmayeur; the path then ascends the side of the ravine by a series of steep zigzags to a little oratory on a rock (1 hr.); thence another hr. over steep slopes of grass leads to the Col. The best view is

obtained from a rocky eminence on the rt. of the Col. No guide is necessary. [A foot-path, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. below the Col, leads in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the Mt. Chétif, also called *Mont Dolina* and *Pain de Sucre*, commanding a fine view, but not equal to that from the Cramont.] Instead of descending at once through the pine forest into the Allée Blanche, it will well repay you to keep along the slope of the mountains until you arrive above the Lac de Combal (Rte. 139), then descending to the lake. You thus completely overlook the valley and the Glacier of Miage which impedes the view of Mt. Blanc, when you are in the Allée Blanche. For this latter part of the excursion, however, a guide is advisable. From Lac de Combal you can return to Courmayeur in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

c. The *Mont de la Saxe*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. N.N.E. of Courmayeur, is easily accessible to ordinary travellers, and commands the finest near view of Mont Blanc, in some respects finer than that from the Cramont, though, being lower, it is less panoramic, the Velan, the Grivola, Ruitor, and others of the Cogne range. After passing the baths of La Saxe, the track to the rt., leading into the Val Ferrex, is followed for a short distance, and then the ascent begins by an easy path, which gradually reaches the summit; this is a sort of undulating plateau, in which no single point much overlooks the rest. The finest view is from an eminence called the Croix de Bernada.

d. No excursion in the Alps is more interesting to the lover of fine scenery or the man of science than that to the *Glacier of La Brenva*. It is best to approach the glacier from the N. side, taking the track from Courmayeur to the village of Entrèves. From thence proceed, in the first place, to visit the cavern at the foot of the glacier, and then ascend by a rough goat-track, which leads to a plank thrown over a torrent that is otherwise difficult to pass. Above this there is no diffi-

culty in selecting a spot by which to mount on the surface of the glacier, here very free from crevasses. Immediately opposite rises the *Mont Péteret*, the principal buttress, which on the S. side sustains the central mass of Mont Blanc. It is easy to cross the glacier and approach near to the base of this pinnacle, which rises nearly 7000 ft. above the glacier. On the ledges of its precipitous face chamois are often to be seen, here safe from the boldest hunter. Returning from the base of the Mont Péteret, the traveller may either descend the enormous moraine which the glacier has borne down into the the Allée Blanche, taking care not to disturb the slightly-poised blocks that hang on the steep slope, or else follow the glacier to the point where it bridges over the torrent of the Doire and abuts against the rocks on the S. side of the Allée Blanche, below the chapel of Notre Dame de la Guérison, there taking the regular track from the Allée Blanche to Courmayeur.

c. An *Inn* has now been built on the *Mont Fréty*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Courmayeur, at the southern base of the *Col du Grand*; complaints made of its dearthness 1861. From thence, or even from Courmayeur, a mountaineer will find no difficulty in reaching the summit of the Col, which is interesting as well for the magnificent view which it commands as for its associations with the history of Alpine adventure since the time of Saussure. The guide will not fail to point out the scene of the fatal accident of 1860, wherein 3 English travellers and one of their guides—Frédéric Tairraz, of Chamouni—were lost in descending the Col. The disaster, as was clearly explained by Professor Tyndall, who carefully examined the spot and inquired into the facts, arose altogether from the fact that the rope to which the 3 tired travellers were attached was not likewise fastened round the body of each guide, but merely held in one hand. In such a position, if one or more of the party slip on difficult ground, the guides have not their arms free to

use the alpenstock or hatchet, and, to save themselves, they let go the rope, when, if their limbs were free, they might easily arrest the descent of the others.

5 routes diverge from Courmayeur: 1, to Aosta; 2, to the Great St. Bernard (Rte. 137); 3, the Little St. Bernard (Rte. 149); 4, the Col de la Seigne to Chamouni (Rte. 139); 5, the Col Ferrex to Martigny (R. 139).

## ROUTE 135.

MARTIGNY TO AOSTA. — PASS OF THE GREAT ST. BERNARD.

	H. MIN.	
Martigny.		
Bourg . . . . .	0	30
St. Branchier . . . . .	2	30
Orsières . . . . .	1	0
Liddes (diligence stops) . . . . .	1	30
St. Pierre . . . . .	1	0
Hospice . . . . .	3	30
St. Remy . . . . .	1	30
St. Oyen . . . . .	1	15
Aosta . . . . .	3	30

*Distance*, 11 hours' walk to the Hospice; about 6 h. thence to Aosta.

This pass is more remarkable in an historic and romantic point of view—

on account of its Hospice, monks, and dogs—than for its scenery, which is inferior to that on most of the other great passes. Guides, mules, and chars may be hired at Martigny, Orsières, or Liddes: the *charges*, fixed by tariff, are high—30 fr. for a char from Martigny to Liddes, and a mule thence to the hospice, including return to Martigny. As far as Proz, beyond Liddes, a practicable char-road was completed by the spirited Valaisans in 1850. Thence the ascent to the hospice is made on mules, the road beyond being impracticable, at present, for any sort of carriage. There is also a char-road on the Italian side from St. Remy to Aosta: the intervening space is only a mule-path, but, as there are great facilities for completing the road between the Hospice and St. Remy, it is by no means improbable that the road may be made practicable for chars in a few years.

From *Martigny* (Rte. 56) the road passes through Bourg-Martigny, and shortly after crosses the Dranse to its l. bank. The bed of this river still exhibits, in the rocks and stones with which it is strewn, evidence of the devastation occasioned in 1818, by the bursting of a lake in the valley of Bagnes. See Rte. 136.

Here the road leaves the path to Chamouni on the rt., and continues up the course of the Dranse to the miserable villages of Valette and Bouvernier. Soon after the river is recrossed, and the road continues on its rt. bank in the deep valley of the Dranse. In one part the defile is so narrow that it was found necessary to cut a *Tunnel* 200 ft. long through the rock. Emerging from it, see l. the ruins of a Convent overwhelmed with rubbish brought down by the bursting of the lake, 1818. Bouvernier was saved from the same fate by a projecting mass of rock. Beyond it the road soon after recrosses the river, and ascends on the l. bank to

*St. Branchier* (or Sembranchier), another dirty village at the foot of

Mont Catogne, at the confluence of the two rivers Dranse, coming from the Val de Bagnes and the Val Entremont and St. Bernard. (*Inn*, Croix, cheap.) Guides and mules to the *Pierre à roir* (Rte. 59).

Above St. Branchier there are fine scenes in the Val d'Entremont, but none strikingly grand; it has the general character of an Alpine valley, and nothing that deserves to be particularly remembered. The Dranse is twice crossed before reaching

*Orsières.* *Inn*, H. des Alpes, pretty good and moderate. Here Val Ferrex opens into the Val Entremont, and the path which leads to the Val Ferrex turns off on the rt. (Rte. 137). [In going from Orsières to Chamouni, the pedestrian may take a pleasant path to Trient (Rte. 141) by the valley and lake of *Champé*, lying to the W. of the Mont Catogne.]

Beyond Orsières there is a fine view, and the scenery becomes rather more wild. The torrent can seldom be seen in the deep gorge which it has made its course, but there is nothing very striking in the scenery.

*Liddes* (*Inns*: H. de l'Union; H. d'Angleterre; none good).

12 fr. is often demanded for a char to Martigny, but one may generally be procured for 8 fr. The charge for each mule from Liddes to the hospice is 6 fr., and a *douceur* to the boy who returns with the mule. Beyond Liddes the char-road has now been carried to a small inn on the plain of Proz.

*St. Pierre* is a dirty, wretched village, but it has inscriptions enough to support some claims to antiquity. A military column, dedicated to the younger Constantine, is placed here. The *Church* dates from the 11th century.

The brothers Ballay, of St. Pierre, are bold chasseurs and excellent guides for any expeditions in the higher Alps of this district. In 1858 they discovered a new route to the summit of the Grand Combin. (See Rte. 136.)

On leaving St. Pierre the road crosses a deep abyss, through which the Dranse forces its way into the valley below. The road to the hospice leaves on the l. a torrent which descends from the Val Sorey, in which there is, not far from St. Pierre, a magnificent cascade.

The road formerly led through the forest of St. Pierre, by a path among the rocks and roots of pines, so steep and tortuous that Napoleon's difficulties in transporting his artillery were here, perhaps, the greatest that he encountered from natural obstacles during his extraordinary expedition in 1800 across these Alps. The Valaisans have cut an excellent road along the precipices which overhang the deep course of the Dranse, avoiding the steep rises and falls of the old road, and leading the traveller by a safe path through a savage defile.

Beyond the forest, where the pines and the larches are stunted from their elevation above the level of the sea, the traveller arrives at some pasturages where there are many chalets. The enormous mass of the Mont Velan appears to forbid further progress: some of its fine glaciers, particularly that of Menouve, stream down into the plain of Proz, where, amidst the shelter of surrounding mountains, numerous herds gather the rich herbage of this Alpine pasturage. The char-road ceases about 2 hours below the Hospice at the little Inn called the *Cantine de Proz*.

[From this the ascent and descent of *Mont Velan* can be made in 12 hrs. or less; André Dorsat, who kept the Cantine, and was an excellent guide, is now dead, but his son worthily succeeds to his reputation. It was first ascended in 1825, since which up to 1856 only 11 ascents have been made.

The first part of the ascent is up the pastures of the *Montagne de Prou*: these passed, a little rock-work follows; then the *Glacier de Prou*, which runs down in the direction of the St. Bernard, is traversed,

and in about 3½ hrs. from the Cantine the main body of the Velan is reached, which rises in a wall of rock, perhaps 2000 ft. high. It is difficult and laborious, hardly dangerous; but there is only one accessible point, and it is necessary to have a guide who knows it. Hitherto every ascent has been made with the Dorsats, father or son: the young man is a first-rate guide, his charge is 20 frs. for the day. The top of the mountain is a saddle-shaped plain of snow, perhaps ½ m. in length. The entire ascent, including a halt for breakfast, will take a good walker 6 hrs. Three hrs. is enough for the descent to the Cantine; but it is much better to descend by the glacier and valley of *Valsorey* to St. Pierre. This will take from 4 to 5 hrs., and, for the exquisite beauty of the glacier itself, and grandeur of the near scenery—it does not command distant views—the route is scarcely to be surpassed in the Alps. It lies between Mont Velan and Mont Combin. The descent is along the crest of rocks which bound the glacier on the side of Italy, and very steep; and there is some rough climbing down the rocks or over the ice.]

On rising above the plain of Prou the path to the Hospice enters another defile, and beyond it another summer pasturage, steep and rugged; the scenes become more sterile and dreary, another ravine is passed, and the summit is approached. At length, after crossing some beds of snow, the solitary walls of the

HOSPICE appear, and the traveller reaches, on the very crest of the pass, this dwelling in the clouds, 8200 English feet above the sea-level.

Here, in the practice of the most disinterested benevolence, lives this community of *Religieux*, who devote the best time of their life, when man is most susceptible of his powers for its enjoyment, to the service of their fellow-men; those whose pursuits oblige them to traverse these dreary fields in seasons of danger, when, with

out such aid and protection, hundreds must perish.

The Hospice is a massive stone building, well adapted to its perilous situation, which is on the very highest point of the pass, where it is exposed to tremendous storms from the N.E. and S.W. On the N.W. it is sheltered by the *Mont Chenellettaz*, and in an opposite direction by the *Mont Mort*. There is no mountain which bears the name of the St. Bernard. Like that of the St. Gothard, the name is only given to the pass. The chief building is capable of accommodating 70 or 80 travellers with beds; 300 may be sheltered; and between 500 and 600 have received assistance in one day. Besides this, there is a house, called *Hôtel St. Louis*, on the other side of the way, built as a place of refuge in case of fire—an event which has twice happened here since the foundation of the establishment.

The ground-floor of the main building consists of stabling, store-room for wood, fodder, &c. A flight of steps leads up to the principal entrance in the first floor of the building, where a long corridor connects the offices, &c., with the chapel. Another corridor on the floor above leads to the dormitories, the refectory, the gallery of the chapel, &c. The *Drawing-room*, appropriated to the reception of strangers, especially ladies, is entered from the stairs between the two corridors. Here brethren do the honours to their visitors.

The *Clavandier* (or Bursar), the commissary of the establishment, is the brother who usually presides at the hours of 11½ and 6, dinner and supper. Gentlemen dine or sup with all the monks in their refectory.

The room appropriated to visitors is large and convenient; it is hung with many drawings and prints, presents sent by travellers in acknowledgment of the kind attentions which they had received from the brethren. The piano was a present from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and is not a little prized; the harmonium is present from the composer Blumen-

thal. Attached to this room is a cabinet, in which a day, unfavourable for out-door enjoyment, may be passed with interest and pleasure. It contains collections of the plants, insects, and minerals of the Alps, and many relics of the Temple dedicated to Jupiter, which formerly stood on this pass, near to the site of the hospice. These antiquities consist of votive tablets, and figures, in bronze, and other metals, and materials, arms, coins, &c., and are curiously illustrative of the early worship on this mountain, and the intercourse established over this pass. No trace whatever now remains of the temple, though these relics are found upon what is known to have been its site. Steps cut in the rock may yet be seen, which led up to the spot upon which the temple stood.

The system of purveyance for the hospital seems to be well regulated. Supplies come from Aosta and the neighbouring villages. Their winter store of hay for their cows is so valuable that the mules which ascend from either side with travellers generally bring their own hay, or supply themselves from a vender established in the convent, at a higher rate than below. Wood for firing is one of the most important necessities to them. Not a stick grows within 2 leagues, and all the fuel supplied to the convent is brought from the forest which belongs to it in the *Val Ferrex*, a distance of nearly 4 leagues. The consumption of wood at the convent is considerable, for, at the great elevation of the hospice, water boils at about 190 degrees, which is so much less favourable for the cooking of meat than at 212 degrees, that it requires 5 hrs. to effect that which, at a less elevation, may be done in 3 hrs. They have adopted stoves for warming the convent with hot air.

The *Chapel* of the hospice is generally well attended on Sundays and Festas, when the weather is not unfavourable, by the peasants from the neighbouring valleys and Alp pastures. It contains the grave of Gene-



ral Dessaix, who fell at Marengo, after having contributed mainly to that victory: the monument was erected by Napoleon.

In the chapel there is a box, where donations in aid of the funds of the establishment are put, and travellers who receive its hospitalities offer their acknowledgments in a sum not less than they would have paid for such accommodation at an inn. The payment thus made by those who can afford it ought to be in a more liberal degree, because that excess aids the monks to extend their assistance to poor and destitute travellers, a very numerous class of claimants upon them, from the great intercourse which exists by this pass between Switzerland and Italy.

Visitors universally acknowledge the kind and courteous attention which they receive from those excellent men. The language used by them is French, though there are Italians and Germans among them. The periodical works of some academic bodies and institutions are sent to them, and they have a small library, which is chiefly theological. During their short summers, their intercourse with well-informed travellers is extensive, which is shown in the names and notices left by travellers in the albums preserved carefully by the brethren at the hospice.

There are usually 10 or 12 brethren of the Augustine order, and a number of assistant lay brethren (marronniers), here. They are all young men, who enter upon this devoted service at 18. The severities of the weather in the winter, at this height, often impair their health, and they are driven to retire to a lower and more genial clime, with broken constitutions and ruined health. Even in the summer it has happened that the ice has never melted in the lake on the summit, and in some years (1816) not a week has passed without snow falling. It always freezes early in the morning, even in the height of summer, and the hospice is rarely four months clear of deep snow. Around the building it averages 7 or 8 feet,

and the drifts sometimes rest against it, and accumulate to the height of 40 feet. The severest cold recorded is 29° below zero of Fahrenheit: it has often been observed at 18° and 20° below. The greatest heat has been 68° in the height of summer.

“The monks have a deep cellar where they keep their wine, &c. unfrozen, although the thermometer often descends to 20° of Réaumur, or -13° of our scale. Fresh meat is easily procured in the summer from the valleys, but for winter they lay up a store of salted and pressed meat. They also keep a number of cows to supply them with milk, butter, and cheese. One only is kept up at the hospice during the winter: the rest are sent to Martigny, and their produce carried up in the solid form. The monks are also obliged to keep 45 horses all the year, in order to bring wood from a forest 3 leagues off. This employment lasts for 2 months during summer, hence the wood must be by far the most expensive article. Travellers are passing every day during the winter, notwithstanding the perils of such a pass at such times. These persons, when they arrive at a certain house not far from the summit, are desired to wait till the following morning, when a servant and a dog descend from the top to this kind of refuge, and take up all the persons assembled, the servant being conducted by the dog, who, it appears, never misses his way, but, entirely hidden, except his tail, in the snow, directs the march of the whole cavalcade. The stories about the monks going out searching for lost travellers, and the dogs carrying wine, are false in fact, and the proof is, that such proceeding is impossible, for as great difficulty exists to the monks roaming about to the travellers. This labour of the dogs is so great, that their life never exceeds 9 years, owing to attacks of rheumatism, which is the bane of both dog and man up here. The infirm dogs are generally killed. If the feet of the persons are found frozen, they are immediately rubbed strongly with snow or with a stimulating ointment.



If neither succeed, the mortified part is immediately amputated by one of the monks, who studies medicine a little. If necessary, stockings, &c., are given to the poor. No dead body has been left unclaimed for two years past, so that there was no addition to the morgue. The snow is generally 30 ft. deep in winter. There are generally 5 or 6 dogs at the hospice. Tradition reports that they are a cross between the Newfoundland and the Pyrenean. In the year 1825 all the dogs and 3 servants (sent on this occasion together—an unusual occurrence) were destroyed by an avalanche. Luckily the monks had recently given away a couple of dogs, which were returned to them, or the breed would have been lost. 10 servants are kept in winter, and 8 in summer, of whom 2 descend daily to the refuges to bring up travellers, from the month of October to the end of April, the time of course varying according to the season. Few of the monks are able to stand the climate for more than 15 years; but there is no stated time for which they devote themselves; each stays as long as he is able, being allowed 30 days' recreation—15 at a time—at a subsidiary house at Martigny, where also they descend when no longer able to live at the St. Bernard, or else they go to the hospice on the Simplon. Service is performed in the chapel at 4½ A.M. in summer, and 5 in winter, and at 8 P.M. all the year round.

“The times at which the poor travellers pass in greatest numbers during the winter, are in November, February, March, and April. As many as 2000 per month will pass in February and March, because the poor inhabitants of the valleys are then going out to seek work; in November they come home with money in their pockets.” In the course of 1844, 19,000 travellers passed over the mountain.

“The scene from the W. end of the hospice looking towards Italy is sterile and dreary; patches of snow are seen on the sides of the mountains, which sweep down to the lake; and the *Pain de Sucre*, a pinnacled mountain on the other side of the Vacherie, with its

rocks and snows, adds to its wildness and desolation.

“A column opposite to the middle of the water marks the boundary of Piedmont and the Valais; above and beyond it, is the little plain of Jupiter, where a temple formerly stood, and from which a Roman road led down on the Piedmontese side of the pass. This road may be easily traced in the hewn rock, and the remains of a massive pavement; but not a vestige of the temple is left above the surface.

“The first foundation of the hospice has been attributed by some to Louise Débonnaire, by others to Charlemagne. There is historical evidence that a monastery existed on the Great St. Bernard before the year 851.

“The present hospice was founded in 962, by Bernard, who was born of a noble family of Savoy, at the château of Menthon, on the lake of Annecy. A determination at an early age to devote himself to an ecclesiastical life induced him to desert his home and go to Aosta, of which city he afterwards became archdeacon. While residing there, his frequent intercourse with pilgrims and travellers probably suggested to him as a work of mercy the restoration of the convent of the Mont Joux, and the establishment of another similar. He became the founder of both houses, gave to them the name, and placed them under the protection, of his favourite saint, Nicolas de Myra, as tutelary patron of these establishments. By degrees, and after the canonization of Bernard, his name superseded that of all others, and has continued attached to the hospice since 1123. He died in 1008, after having governed the convent upwards of 40 years. For some time after the death of St. Bernard the hospice was exposed to frequent outrages from barbarians who traversed the mountains; and its records of the 11th century present a succession of calamities.

“It soon acquired celebrity and opulence: emperors, sovereign pontiffs, and other distinguished persons, disputed the glory of fostering and protecting a foundation so important to

humanity. In the contests of the emperor Frederic Barbarossa with pope Alexander III. and Humbert count of Maurienne, diplomas of protection were given by them for the security of persons and property belonging to the monastery. As early as 1177, it had, in various dioceses, 88 benefices, in priories, cures, châteaux, and farms; it had lands in Sicily, in Flanders, and in England. Its climax of riches and importance was in 1480, when it possessed 98 livings. Subsequently, however, the Reformation, political changes in the states, loss of distant property, disputes with the popes, with the neighbouring states, and with each other, drove the monks of St. Bernard to seek even eleemosynary assistance. The very land upon which their noble duties are performed has been the subject of disputes between the neighbouring states. Sardinia claimed it as within a frontier extending to the bridge of Nudri, on the northern side; but the Valaisans established a claim to it as within the diocese of Sion, by bulls of the popes from Leo IX. to Benoît XIV. The hospice, therefore, stands within the canton of the Valais; but its authority extends only to the middle of the lake, on the borders of which a column is fixed as a line of demarcation. Very little property in land still belongs to the hospice; a vineyard at Clarens, and a farm at Roche, in the Pays de Vaud, are the principal: their resources are small, and in aid of them collections are regularly made in the Swiss cantons."—*Brockedon's Passes of the Alps*.

Bonaparte rather impoverished than enriched the monks. It was true that he had assisted them with donations, but his claims upon their funds had exceeded his benefits; that they had had 40 men quartered upon them for months together, and 60,000 had passed in one season, and all these had been assisted.

The duties of the Brotherhood of St. Bernard and their servants sometimes lead them into fatal danger. On the 17th of Dec. 1825, a party

of 3 domestics of the convent, or Marronniers—one of them was Victor, a worthy man, well remembered by Alpine travellers—went out with 2 dogs, on the side of the Vacherie, to search at a dangerous time for travellers. They met one, with whom they were returning to the convent, when an avalanche overwhelmed them, and all perished, except one of the dogs, whose prodigious strength and activity enabled it to escape. The bodies of poor Victor and his companions were found only after the melting of the snow in the following summer. Nov. 12, 1845, the Clavandier and 3 servants were buried beneath an enormous avalanche from the Mont Mort, which covered them 15 ft. deep, and all perished.

"There is one scene of melancholy interest usually visited on the St. Bernard—the *Morgue*, or receptacle for the dead. It is a low building a few yards from the E. extremity of the convent, where the bodies of the unfortunate victims to storms and avalanches in these mountains have been placed. They have generally been found frozen, and put into this horrid receptacle in the posture in which they perished. Here many have 'dried up and withered,' and on some even the clothes have remained after 18 years. From the rapid evaporation at this height the bodies had dried without the usual decay. In a walled enclosure on one side of the morgue was a great accumulation of bones, white, broken, and apparently the gathering of centuries. Upon this rocky and frozen soil they could not bury the dead, and, probably, as they dry up without offence, they are placed here for the chance of recognition."—*Passes of the Alps*.

On leaving the hospice to descend to the Val d'Aosta, the path skirts the lake, and passes between it and the Plain de Jupiter. A little beyond the end of the lake, after passing through a short defile, the scene opens towards Italy, into the basin of the

Vacherie, where the cows of the

convent are pastured. The road turns abruptly to the right, and sweeps round the basin to descend gradually to the plain below.

The view on first looking out upon the Vacherie, from the gorge in the Mont Mort, is very fine, the mountains on the opposite side being sublime in form and elevation: the most striking in the scene is the *Pain de Sucre*, celebrated by Saussure.

At the lower end of the Vacherie the path winds down by a series of zigzags, and thence the descent is rapid to

*St. Remy*, a dreary little village; *Inn*, H. du Alpes, indifferent. Here return chars to Aosta may generally be obtained for 10 francs. Travellers who leave Aosta to visit the hospice, in a char for St. Remy, and intend to return, cause it to wait for them there for four or six hours, and pay 20 francs for the char for the day, with a buona-mano to the postilion.

Here the Piedmontese custom-house is placed. From St. Remy the road descends, with little interest in the scenery, to

*St. Oyen.*

At *Etroubles*, the St. Bernard branch of the Buttier is crossed, and the road descends to the village of *Gignod*, where the vegetation begins to luxuriate, and the effects of an Italian climate are felt and seen. Here there is a fine peep into the Val Pellina. From *Gignod* to the city of Aosta, the richness of the scenery is constantly increasing. Trellised vines and Indian corn mark the approach to the Val d'Aosta; and the first view of the city and the valley, in the descent from the St. Bernard, where the background is filled with the magnificent forms and snowy summits of the mountains above the Val de Cogne, is very fine indeed.

AOSTA (Rte. 134).

ROUTE 136.

MARTIGNY TO AOSTA, BY THE VAL DE BAGNES, THE COL DES FENÊTRES, AND VAL PELLINA.

Martigny.	Hours.
St. Branchier, char-road .	2½
Chables . . . . .	1½
Lourtier . . . . .	1½
Getroz, bridle-road . .	2½
Torembeo . . . . .	2
Valpellina . . . . .	8
Aosta, char-road . . .	3

This valley can be visited with convenience since the establishment of an *Inn* at Getroz.

*Martigny to St. Branchier* (Rte. 135). From St. Branchier a good mule-track leads up the valley of Bagnes, which is very fertile, to

*Chables* (*Inn*: H. Perrodia, country quarters), the principal village in the valley. Here the glacier of Getroz comes into sight. The valley is nar-

row, abounding in gorges, and offering many fine scenes to the pencil of the traveller. At *Champsec* a small Inn. The char-road ends at *Lourtier*,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. further (no regular inn). Above this place the gorge of the Drance becomes still narrower. It opens out somewhat at the junction of the stream flowing from the great *Glacier of Corbassière*, filling the W. branch of the valley on the N. side of the peak of the *Grand Combin*, or *Graffeneire*. This, the giant of this part of the Pennine chain, 14,134 ft. in height, is known in the Val de Bagnes only by the name *Graffeneire*, the name *Mont Combin* being given to a lower peak on the W. side of the glacier of *Corbassière*. The summit was first reached in 1857 by two chasseurs of *Lourtier*, and later in the same year by Mr. W. Mathews. Two brothers named *Ballay*, of *St. Pierre*, discovered a new way to the summit in 1858 by the *Col de la Maison Blanche*, N.E. of the glacier of *Valsorey*. Not more than 7 or 8 ascents have been made. Very poor accommodation is found in the chalets of *Corbassière*.

Following the main valley from *Lourtier*, in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the path reaches

*Pont de Mauvoisin*, a lofty stone-arched bridge, at the upper limit of trees, by which you pass from the rt. to the l. bank of the Drance, adjoining a small hamlet, not far below the glaciers of *Getroz*.

*Getroz Inn*—favourite quarters for mountaineers—in the centre of numerous excursions and passes. *Bertrand Trolliet* is a good guide.

*Debâcle*. The descent of the glaciers of *Getroz* from the *Mont Pleureur* was the cause of the interruption of the waters of the Drance, which formed a lake and burst its bounds in 1595, carrying off in its destructive course more than 140 persons from the valley, besides houses and cattle. A more recent inundation, that of 1818, from a similar cause, has left fearful traces of its overwhelming power. Among the boulders brought

down by that event, is one which contains above 1400 cubic ft.; and the height which the waters then attained is yet distinctly marked where the land, then covered, is even now desolate.

"Vast blocks of stone," says *Brockedon*, in his 'Excursions in the Alps,' "which were driven and deposited there by the force of the waters, now strew the valley; and sand and pebbles present an arid surface where rich pasturages were seen before the catastrophe. The quantity and violence of the water suddenly disengaged, and the velocity of its descent, presented a force which the mind may calculate, but cannot conceive.

"In the spring of 1818 the people of the valley of Bagnes became alarmed on observing the low state of the waters of the Drance, at a season when the melting of the snows usually enlarged the torrent; and this alarm was increased by the records of similar appearances before the dreadful inundation of 1595.

"In April, 1818, some persons went up the valley to ascertain the cause of the deficiency of water, and they discovered that vast masses of the glaciers of *Getroz*, and avalanches of snow, had fallen into a narrow part of the valley between *Mont Pleureur* and *Mont Mauvoisin*, and formed a dike of ice and snow 600 ft. wide and 400 ft. high, on a base of 3000 ft. behind which the waters of the Drance had accumulated, and formed a lake above 7000 ft. long. *M. Venetz*, the engineer of the *Vallais*, was consulted, and he immediately decided upon cutting a gallery through this barrier of ice, 60 ft. above the level of the water at the time of commencing, and where the dike was 50 ft. thick. He calculated upon making a tunnel through this mass before the water should have risen 60 ft. high in the lake. On the 10th of May the work was begun by gangs of 50 men, who relieved each other, and worked without intermission, day and night, with inconceivable courage and perseverance, neither deterred by the

daily occurring danger from the falling of fresh masses of the glacier, nor by the rapid increase of the water in the lake, which rose 62 ft. in 34 days—on an average nearly 2 ft. each day; but it once rose 5 ft. in one day, and threatened each moment to burst the dike by its increasing pressure; or, rising in a more rapid proportion than the men could proceed with their work, render their efforts abortive, by rising above them. Sometimes dreadful noises were heard, as the pressure of the water detached masses of ice from the bottom, which, floating, presented so much of their bulk above the water as led to the belief that some of them were 70 ft. thick. The men persevered in their fearful duty without any serious accident; and though suffering severely from cold and wet, and surrounded by dangers which cannot be justly described, by the 4th of June they had accomplished an opening 600 ft. long; but having begun their work on both sides of the dike at the same time, the place where they ought to have met was 20 ft. lower on one side of the lake than on the other; it was fortunate that latterly the increase of the perpendicular height of the water was less, owing to the extension of its surface. They proceeded to level the highest side of the tunnel, and completed it just before the water reached them. On the evening of the 13th the water began to flow. At first the opening was not large enough to carry off the supplies of water which the lake received, and it rose 2 ft. above the tunnel; but this soon enlarged from the action of the water, as it melted the floor of the gallery, and the torrent rushed through. In 32 hrs. the lake sunk 10 ft., and during the following 24 hrs. 20 ft. more; in a few days it would have been emptied; for the floor melting, and being driven off as the water escaped, kept itself below the level of the water within; but the cataract which issued from the gallery melted and broke up also a large portion of the base of the dike which had served as its buttress; its resistance decreased faster than the pres-

sure of the lake lessened, and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 16th of June the dike burst, and in half an hour the water escaped through the breach, and left the lake empty.

“The greatest accumulation of water had been 800,000,000 of cubic feet; the tunnel, before the disruption, had carried off nearly 330,000,000—Escher says, 270,000,000; but he neglected to add 60,000,000 which flowed into the lake in 3 days. In half an hour, 530,000,000 cubic ft. of water passed through the breach, or 300,000 ft. per second; which is 5 times greater in quantity than the waters of the Rhine at Basle, where it is 1300 English ft. wide. In one hour and a half the water reached Martigny, a distance of 8 leagues. Through the first 70,000 ft. it passed with the velocity of 33 ft. per second—four or five times faster than the most rapid river known; yet it was charged with ice, rocks, earth, trees, houses, cattle, and men; 34 persons were lost, 400 cottages swept away, and the damage done in the 2 hrs. of its desolating power exceeded a million of Swiss livres. All the people of the valley had been cautioned against the danger of a sudden irruption; yet it was fatal to so many. All the bridges in its course were swept away, and among them the bridge of Mauvoisin, which was elevated 90 feet above the ordinary height of the Drance. If the dike had remained untouched, and it could have endured the pressure until the lake had reached the level of its top, a volume of 1,700,000,000 cubic feet of water would have been accumulated there, and a devastation much more fatal and extensive must have been the consequence. From this greater danger the people of the valley of the Drance were preserved by the heroism and devotion of the brave men who effected the formation of the gallery in the dike, under the direction of M. Venetz. I know no instance on record of courage equal to this: their risk of life was not for fame or for riches—they had not the usual excitements to personal risk in

a world's applause or gazetted promotion,—their devoted courage was to save the lives and property of their fellow-men, not to destroy them. They steadily and heroically persevered in their labours, amidst dangers such as a field of battle never presented.

“But the skill of M. Venetz was not limited in its application to emptying the lake: his abilities have been properly directed to the prevention of such another catastrophe, for the liability to its recurrence was obvious. Not one-twentieth part of the ice which formed the barrier had been removed when the dike burst, and fresh masses were still falling from Mont Pleureur and Mont Mauvoisin, the mountains of which the bases formed the buttresses to the dike; in fact the dike was again accumulating so rapidly, that at the end of 1819 the barrier was almost as complete as before its bursting from the pressure of the lake.

“It became, therefore, an important object to prevent a repetition of the former catastrophe, by the adoption of such means as would prevent, or at least diminish, the increase of the barrier. Blasting by gunpowder was found impracticable, from the difficulty of firing the powder at considerable depths in the ice, and from the comparatively small masses removed by this means. After much consideration and many trials, a mode has been adopted and put in execution by M. Venetz, which promises the greatest success.

“M. Venetz had remarked that the glacier could not support itself where the river was of a certain width, but fell into it and was dissolved; whereas, where the river was comparatively narrow, the ice and snow formed a vault over it, and consequently tended to the preservation of any portion falling from the glacier above. Perceiving also the effect of the river in dissolving the part it came in contact with, he formed and executed the design of bringing the streams of the neighbouring mountains by a canal to Mauvoisin, opposite the highest part

of the glacier where it touched that mountain. From hence it was conducted by wooden troughs on to the glacier in a direction parallel to the valley. The water was divided into two streams; one falling nearly on the one edge of the Drance, and the other on the other; and having been warmed by the sun in its course, soon cut very deep channels in the ice. When they reached the river the troughs were removed a few feet, and thus the stream produced the effect of a saw, which, dividing the ice, forced the portion between them to fall into the Drance.

“When the weather is fine, these streams, which are not more than 4 or 5 inches in diameter, act with extraordinary power, piercing a hole 200 feet deep and 6 feet in diameter in 24 hours. They are calculated to remove 100,000 cubical feet of ice from the barrier daily, and it is supposed that if the weather is fine the whole will be removed in three years.

“At the end of the season of 1822 the Drance remained covered only for a length of 480 feet; whereas, at the commencement of the operation, it was covered over a length of 1350 feet. M. Venetz estimates the quantity of ice removed in 1822 as between 11 and 12 millions of cubical feet.”—*Bib. Univ.* xxii. 58.

“The main glacier of Getroz lies high up amidst the defiles of Mont Pleureur, and is not visible from the path along the opposite side of the valley. The glacier which did the mischief, now reduced in size, resembles a mass of unmelted snow, lying in the depths of the defile, and in reality consists of fragments which have fallen from the upper glacier over a cliff of enormous height, at whose edge it terminates. The defile is so narrow that these dirty fallen fragments still partially bar the course of the river, and must continue to choke the outlet until a tunnel be formed for the passage of the water beneath them.”—See *Forbes*.



The path now lies across the bed of the glacier-lake, whose bursting did so much mischief: 4 hours' walk from Chable; 1½ hour further lie the châteaux of *Torembe*, above *Getroz*, which can be reached in good time in one day from *Martigny*; and those who wish to cross the glaciers can sleep there, or at *Chermontane*, and reach *Aosta* on the following day.

The ascent of the upper part of the valley, crossing to the l. bank of the *Drance*, presents scenes of greater grandeur than any below. As the valley turns to the S.E. several glaciers come into sight, that of *Brenay* is passed on the l., and that of *Durand*, descending on the rt. from the *Mont Combin*, stretches over across the *Drance*. It requires to be traversed in order to reach the pastures, on which stand the châteaux of *Chermontane*, on the W. of the valley, at the foot of the *Mont Avril*. These are on a larger scale than usual, and they afford the best quarters for any one seeking to explore the neighbouring mountains; but a chateau is, at the best, a very comfortless stopping-place. The *Mont Avril*, whose summit is easily reached from these châteaux in 4 hrs., commands a magnificent view of the neighbouring Alps.

[From the châteaux of *Chermontane* there is a somewhat difficult and laborious glacier pass, the *Col du Mont Gelée*, leading to the head of *Val l'Herémence*, the W. branch of the *Eringer-thal*, or *Val d'Erin*. From hence *Sion* might be reached on the same day; or, by crossing the ridge separating the glacier d'*Herémence* from the *Combe d'Arolla*, it is possible to push on to the comfortable inn at *Evolena*. In either case the day's journey is a severe one, fit only for well-trained pedestrians.] *Bernard Trolliet*, of *Getroz*, is considered the best chasseur and guide in the *Val de Bagnes*.

Professor *Forbes* did not descend to the châteaux, but keeping high up on the flanks of *Mont Avril*, skirting the glacier, mounted by a tedious but not difficult ascent to the

*Col des Fenêtres*, 9213 feet above the sea-level. Calvin fled by this pass from *Aosta* in 1541.

"The view towards Italy is wonderfully striking. The mountains (of *Cogne*) beyond *Aosta*, and the glaciers of *Ruitor*, are spread out in the distance, and beneath we have the exceeding deep valley of *Ollomont*, communicating with the *Val Pelline*, which is itself a tributary of the *Val d'Aosta*. It is enclosed by ridges of the most fantastic and savage grandeur, which descend from the mountains on either side of the *Col* on the N.E. from *Mont Combin*, rising to a height of 14,200 ft., and on the S.E. from *Mont Gelée*, 12,000 ft. high, and almost too steep to bear snow, presenting a perfect ridge of pyramidal aiguilles stretching towards *Val Pellina*."—*Prof. Forbes*.

The course from the *Col des Fenêtres* to *Val Pellina* is to skirt the base of the peaky ridges of *Mont Gelée*, passing a small lake by a rapid descent, and reaching the pastures. The descent is long and fatiguing to *Balme*, the first hamlet, and to *Ollomont*, where there are traces of an aqueduct built by the Romans for the supply of water to *Augusta Prætoria*. Thence the road descends through the village of *Val Pellina*, whence the path leads along the l. bank of the river till it joins the main road, about 2 m. from

AOSTA. (Rte. 134.)



## ROUTE 137.

## MARTIGNY TO COURMAYEUR.

- A. BY THE COL DE FERREX.  
 B. BY THE COL DE LA FENÊTRE.  
 C. BY THE COL DE SERENA.

A. *Col de Ferrex.*

	HOURS.
Martigny.	
Orsières . . . . .	4
La Folie . . . . .	2½
Col Ferrex . . . . .	2
Courmayeur . . . . .	4

The most direct route from Martigny and the Valais to the S. side of Mont Blanc is by the Col de Ferrex. The scenery on the Piedmontese side is fine, but wants variety.

An active pedestrian will accomplish the distance in 11½ hrs.

The route from Martigny to Orsières has been described Rte. 135.

At Orsières a path turns off on the rt., enters the *Val Ferrex*, which is the name given to the valley on the Swiss side mounting towards the Col, as well as to the Piedmontese valley de-

scending from thence towards Courmayeur, and forming, in fact, a continuation of the Allée Blanche. The road to the Col mounts along the bank of the torrent, and, after pursuing a tolerable road to Issert, the principal village, 4½ hrs. distant from Martigny, ascends rapidly towards the higher hamlets of Pra le Fort and Branche. The mountains which bound the valley towards the W. are lofty, and crowned with the northern extremity of those vast glaciers of the chain of Mont Blanc which descend towards the *Val Ferrex*, as the glaciers of Salena, Portalet, and Neuve.

There is nothing, however, remarkable in the scenery of the Swiss Val Ferrex. The route leads up a succession of rather flat divisions of the valley, from Issert to the *Châlets de Folie*, distant 2 hrs. On the rt. the short transversal valleys descending from the N.E. end of the Mont Blanc chain are the channels for glaciers.

Above the Châlets de Folie the usual path to the Col Ferrex leads up through the Châlets of Ferrex, over the detritus of a mountain which fell in the year 1776, burying the pasturages of Banderai. Near to these châlets two paths separate—that on the l. leading over the Col de la Fenêtre to the Great St. Bernard, and on the rt. to the Col Ferrex.

[A short path leads to another Col close to the chain of M. Blanc, called the *Little Ferrex*. It is not a mule path, and the distant views are inferior. The paths re-unite at Pré de Bar.]

The woods and pasturages of part of the Val Ferrex belong to the Convent of the Great St. Bernard, and at this distance from the hospice (or 5 leagues) the brethren obtain all their wood and some hay, which is conveyed to them by mules over the Col de la Fenêtre.

From the crest of the Col, the view along the S.E. side of Mont Blanc, towards Piedmont, is one of the

scenes celebrated by Saussure. The eye is carried through the Val d'Entrèves and the Allée Blanche to the Col de la Seigne, an extent of 30 m. Numerous glaciers are seen on the rt., streaming down into the valley from the ridge of Mont Blanc; but the "Monarch" himself is not seen—the enormous masses of the Grand Jorasse and the Géant conceal him in this view. In the opposite direction, the Swiss Val Ferrex is seen, bounded on either side by lofty mountains, and the distance is limited only by the Bernese Alps.

The descent is over a soft slaty soil, in which the tracks of sheep and cattle have cut deep trenches, in which if a man stand he is half concealed. 10 min. below the Col a cross is placed on the edge of a precipice which the path passes. It serves to guide the course of the ascending traveller, though from below it seems to be placed on a pyramidal mass of rock which it would be impossible to attain. Far in the deep valley the stream flowing into Italy appears like a thread of silver.

An hour and a half of fatiguing descent brings the traveller to the chalets of *Pré de Bar*. (Inn: tolerable.)

Near *Pré de Bar* the vast glacier of *Triolet* sweeps down from the crest which divides this glacier from the masses, which, on the other side, form the glacier of *Talèfre*. Below the glacier of *Triolet*, the road descends by a fatiguing path, amidst rocks and stones and bushes, presenting a scene of Alpine desolation. The valley is very narrow, and each rift on the mountain side towards Mont Blanc has its glacier hanging down from the summit. Not less than 7 distinct glaciers are passed

the course of this valley before reaching the village of Entrèves, near

Cormayeur. These chiefly descend from the masses which form the Grand Jorasse, and the remarkable peak of the Géant. A few miserable villages in the Val d'Entrèves are passed. The highest is *Sagion*; those below are *Pré-sec* and *Plan-pansier*,

More than half the length of the valley is passed, on the descent, before Mont Blanc is seen. When its prodigious mass opens to the view, the effect is overwhelming. The ruggedness of the descent is increased by passing over the débris of a mountain fall beneath the Géant. This passed, the river, which descends through the Val d'Entrèves, is crossed, the village of Entrèves is left on the rt., and, winding along a path by the side of the mountain, you reach

*Cormayeur* (Rte. 134).

### B. *Col de la Fenêtre*.

By allowing 2 easy days for the journey from Martigny to Cormayeur the pedestrian may combine a visit to the St. Bernard with the view of the Allée Blanche from the Col de Ferrex, which is one of the striking scenes in the tour of Mont Blanc. Going on the first day to the Hospice of the St. Bernard (Rte. 135), he may take a guide to lead him from thence by the *Col de la Fenêtre* to the head of the Swiss Val Ferret. The way is pretty well traced, as wood is carried by this track to the Hospice; but a little fresh snow would be sufficient to conceal it, when it would be very difficult to find the true direction. 3½ hrs. suffice to reach the point where this path leads into the ordinary route from Orsières to the Col de Ferrex, a little below the summit of the pass.

### C. *Col de Serena*.

This is the best route for pedestrians who wish to pass the Great St. Bernard, and then to reach Cormayeur by the shortest way. It is not, however, a very interesting pass. The shortest course is to follow a path which turns to the rt. close to the Vacherie of the Hospice, and, winding round the slopes of the moun-

tains, reaches the *châlet* at the foot of the Col de Serena, where it joins the regular track. This is a considerable short-cut, but is very fatiguing, and requires a local guide. A good walker may easily get to Courmayeur this way in 7 hrs. The ordinary route, which is passable for mules, descends as far as St. Remy on the way towards Aosta. You there take the road to the rt. to the village of *Bosses*, then through fields for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr., and you arrive at the foot of the Col. Half an hr.'s ascent through a pine-forest brings you to the last *châlet*, where milk and cheese may be obtained as long as the cows are on the mountain. Here, instead of following a road to the rt., go up the mountain by a zigzag path immediately *behind* the *châlet*, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s. good walking will land you on the top of the Col. This part of the road is exceedingly steep, but the view from the summit well rewards your labour. The scenery is very wild, especially towards the N. and N.W., offering a great contrast to the beautifully cultivated valley of Aosta, which shortly afterwards (just above the village of *Morges*) you see extended at your feet. From *Morges* to *Morgex*, on the high road between Aosta and Courmayeur (Rte. 134), is a walk down a stony path of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. Thence to Courmayeur 2 hrs. walk; in all about 9 hrs. from the Hospice. The Serena abounds with ptarmigan and chamois.

There is another pass, called the *Col de St. Remy*, by which the Val Ferrex may be reached on the Piedmontese side of the Col. There is no advantage in this. It is longer than the Serena, and you lose the view of the Allée Blanche from the Col de Ferrex.

## ROUTE 138.

GENEVA TO CHAMOUNI.

86 kilom. = 53 $\frac{1}{2}$  Eng. m.

	KIL	Eng. m.
Geneva.		
Ronneville . . .	28	= 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Martin . . .	30	= 18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chamouni . . .	28	= 17 $\frac{1}{2}$

Diligences (several daily) to St. Martin or Sallanches (6 hrs.), then changed for light post-chairs suited for the rest of the road, which is very steep and rough, and, though only  $17\frac{1}{2}$  takes from St. Martin to Chamouni 5 hrs. A carriage and pair cost 80 frs. Pedestrians will find it pleasant to walk from St. Martin to Chamouni, and will traverse the distance in about 4 or 5 hrs. One must not be deluded into paying for a double journey by diligence or otherwise, to return to Geneva. There are several routes from Chamouni of great

interest, by which you may avoid re-racing your steps by the same road.

Travellers posting in their own carriages must send them round from St. Martin or Chamouni to Martigny, if they intend crossing the Tête Noire or Col de Balme.

Geneva is left for Chamouni by the Grande Place and the new quarter on the site of the levelled Porte de l'Écluse. For some miles the road is lined with neat villas and gardens.

*Chesne*—on the Seime—is one of the largest villages in the republic. The road offers some fine views of the l. Voirons, rt. Mont Salève, the picturesque red Château de Morax, and the range of the Jura. Soon after leaving Chesne, the road crosses a little stream, the Foron, which has its source in the Voirons, and is the boundary between the canton of Geneva and the Savoy frontier.

A little beyond it, at Annemasse, is the station of the French douane. The first rising ground beyond, the *Môle*, a conical mountain, is seen all its height, 5800 feet, partly concealing the only hollow in the range of mountains beyond, up which its course to Chamouni lies.

Beyond *Annemasse* the road runs through the valley of the Arve, in which

blanched stones mark by their depth how furious the river must be after storms. A new road, well engineered, and a handsome lofty bridge, effect the passage of the gorge, nearly on a level, avoiding the arduous descent and ascent of the old road. It next passes over an elevated plain, and soon reaches

the village of *Nangy*. A little beyond there are some ruins on the left; and, after passing *Contamines*, seen those of the *Château of Faucigny*, that gives its name to the province of *Faucigny*. The road now lies so near to the *Môle*, that this mountain is an imposing and beautiful sight. Upon it an obelisk has been erected—one of the points in a trigonometrical survey of Savoy. Beyond

*Contamines* the road declines. The mountains which bound the Arve present a bold aspect, and the entrance is striking, through an avenue of trees, to

*Bonneville* (*Inns*: Couronne; Balances), before the annexation to France the chief place in the province of *Faucigny*; it is in the diocese of *Annecy*, and had a prefecture. The population, once 3000, has gradually dwindled to 1500.

The top of the *Môle* may be reached from this in 3½ hrs.

A road leads over the hills from this place to *Annecy*; thence Railway to *Aix les Bains* (Rte. 152).

At the end of the stone bridge, built 1753, over the Arve, is a Column erected in honour of *Carlo Felice*, and in gratitude for his having added to the security of their town by the formation of strong embankments, to restrain the furious Arve. It is surmounted by a statue of the King, and is 95 feet high.

The road now lies between the *Môle* and the *Mont Brezon*, the range that on the right bounds the valley of the Arve, which is here rich in cultivation. The road, after some time, undulates, and passes through the villages of *Vaugier* and *Scionzier*; beyond which the valley widens. Here the Arve is joined by the *Giffre*; a torrent that descends from the *Buet*, flows through the valley of *Sixt*, and by the town of *Tanninges*. (See Rte. 143.) *Scionzier* lies at the mouth of the *Vallée du Reposoir*.

The road continues close under the *Brezon* until its precipices frown over the route near *Cluses*. Here, crossing the Arve, on a stone bridge, it enters

*Cluses* (*Inns*: Parfaite Union; Ecu de France), an old town, Pop. 1600—was almost all burnt down in 1843, but has been rebuilt, away from the mouth of the gorge, in which it originally stood. The wind, issuing as from a furnace-blast bellows out of this gorge, used to foment any accidental fire into a general conflagration, and from this cause *Cluses* has suffered many times.

Many persons are employed in watchmaking, for which this town was more celebrated in the last century. The Cluses artizans prepare *movements* in a rough state, for the watchmakers in Geneva and in Germany.

On leaving Cluses, the road is carried through the defile on the borders of the river, and beneath grand Alpine precipices. The valley is very narrow, nearly all the way to Maglan, and, in some places, the road is straitened in between the river and the bases of precipices, which actually overhang the traveller. The banks of the river are well wooded, and the scenery is as beautiful as it is wild.

Before arriving at Maglan, the precipices on the left retire a little, forming an amphitheatre, which is filled, nearly half-way up, with the *débris* of the mountain. At the top of this talus, 800 feet above the valley, the *Grotto of Balme* is seen, to which a mule-path leads, which is undistinguishable below. At a little hut in the hamlet of La Balme, mules are kept for a visit to the grotto.

Those who intend to go on to Chamonix, should not waste any time here; for 2 hours are consumed in seeing the cave. It enters the mountain more than 1800 feet; but the view from it, owing to the narrowness of the valley, is limited. The peaks, however, of Mont Douron, seen on the other side of the valley, are remarkably fine in form.

Maglan lies below the lofty mountains on the right bank of the Arve; the commune, which is straggling, contains nearly as many inhabitants as Cluses. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  league beyond Maglan, the road passes close to one of the highest waterfalls in Savoy, that of *Nant d'Arpenaz*; the stream is small, and before it reaches half its first descent it is broken into spray, yet its shape is very graceful, and after being nearly dissipated and dispersed over the face of the precipice, it reforms after reaching the slope or talus of soil and stones which it has brought down, and rushing across the road beneath a bridge, it flows into

the Arve. The rock of brown limestone, from which it descends, is remarkable for its tortuous stratification, forming a vast curve. The route from Geneva is so much frequented by strangers in the season that it is beset by all sorts of vagabonds, who plant themselves in the way openly as beggars, or covertly as dealers in mineral specimens, guides to things which do not require their aid, dealers in echoes, by firing small cannon where its reverberation may be heard 2 or 3 times. These idle nuisances should be discounted.

The valley increases in width, and rich fields spread up the base of the Douron; on the l. the peak of the *Aiguille de Varens*, or Vêran, rises nearly 8000 ft. above the level of the sea.

*St. Martin—Inns:* Hôtel du Marquis Blanc, good, better than any at Sallanches; B.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fr., Br. with beefsteak 2 fr., D. 4 fr.;—Croix Blanche.

Within a hundred yards of the town a bridge crosses the Arve, and leads to the town of Sallanches, half a mile from St. Martin. From this bridge a noble view of Mont Blanc: the actual distance to the peak is more than 12 miles in a direct line, yet so sharp, and bright, and clear is every part of its stupendous mass, that the eye of one unused to such scenes is utterly deceived, and led to underrate the distance. On looking up the valley, the broad winter-bed of the Arve, however, objects recede, and give the accustomed impressions of distance; above this rises the mountain of Forclaz, its sides clothed with pasture, and its summit with pasturage. On these are seen the Aiguille du Goûté, and the base of the loftiest mountain in Europe propped by ridges of aiguilles, and the intervals of these filled with glaciers.

*Sallanches (Inns:* Bellevue; (man), about 36 m. from Geneva. A little town of wide, straight streets, containing about 2000 Inhab., rising out of the ashes of one which

totally destroyed by fire on Good Friday, 1840. It broke out while everybody was at church, and thus got ahead before it could be checked. Many lives were lost.

At St. Martin, or Sallenches, local calèches, chars, mules, and guides for Chamouni are found in abundance. A *char* to Chamouni (without return) costs 12 frs.; with 2 horses 18 frs. Postilion, *pourboire*, 2 frs. extra. The *tariff* of the Post-book should be consulted; it is the same in both places.

Travellers are conveyed hence to Chamouni in open landaus or barouches, drawn by 2 horses, and carrying 4 inside and 2 out, with luggage. Though the distance is not 18 Eng. m., it takes up 4 or 5 hours.

The baths of St. Gervais are scarcely worth the *détour* required, but the pedestrian who intends to visit Chamouni and return by Geneva is advised to go from St. Martin up the right bank of the Arve to Chède, Servoz, and Chamouni, and return by the Col de Forclaz, and the Baths of St. Gervais. If, however, the traveller should not intend to return by the valley of the Arve, he can go round by the Baths of St. Gervais to Chède, or cross the Col de Vosa to Chamouni.

[From Sallenches the distance along a level road to the baths of *St. Gervais* is about 5 m., and an agreeable drive, from the views presented of the peak of Varens, which overhangs St. Martin and the valley of Maglan. The road turns abruptly on the right into the gorge of the Bon Nant,

stream which descends from the Bonhomme to the *Baths of St. Gervais*, with a boarding-house (complaints of the management have been made of late years; English travellers refer H. du Mont Joli, on the heights above, descending daily to bathe), in a beautiful valley, where accommodation may be had *en pension*: hot mineral baths for the sick, and delightful walks around for the convalescent. The waters are at 105° temperature; the heat of Bath with the qualities of Harrowgate: they contain iron and

sulphur. At the back of the house, a little way up the glen, is the very fine *Cascade du Bon Nant*, which, though not large, is extremely picturesque. The views from above St. Gervais are very fine, though the higher Alps are concealed; but the limestone range of the Aiguille de Varens, above St. Martin, is singularly picturesque in its outline and detail.

The glen is a *cul-de-sac*; for chars there is no leaving it upward; it is necessary to return to the entrance, where two roads branch off—one, very steep, leads up to the village of St. Gervais, in the Val Montjoie (with an excellent hotel and pension, *H. du Mont Joli*, 2200 ft. above the sea; pension 7 frs. a day, and very good), through which the Bon Nant flows, until it falls into the gulf behind the baths, above St. Gervais. This road continues through the villages of Bionay and Tresse to Contamines, and the pass of the Bonhomme. (Rte. 139.)

The other road at the entrance of the glen of the baths of St. Gervais, after skirting a little way the mountain base below the Forclaz, leads across the valley of the Arve, and falls into the char-road to Chamouni near Chède, 2½ m. from the baths.

From St. Gervais to Chamouni there are 2 mule-paths over the mountains—by the *Col de Vosa*, a pass of great interest, on account of its noble view of the chain of Mont Blanc, 5 hrs. walk; by the *Col de la Forclaz*, shorter, but less interesting.]

#### *St. Martin to Chamouni.*

The valley of the Arve above St. Martin and Sallenches spreads out into a wide flat plain, having the appearance of a drained lake-basin. Terrible traces are still to be seen of the flood of 1852. Magnificent views open out from time to time all the way to Servoz. At the little hamlet of

*Chède*, the road steeply ascends above the broad plain of the Arve. Near to Chède there is on the left a

fine cascade, which travellers, who start at 5 A.M. for Chamouni, generally visit for the sake of the beautiful iris that then plays over it.

[From Chède there is a path over the mountains in about 8 hrs. to Sixt, by the Pointe de Platée and the châteaux of La Sale (Rte. 143).]

After attaining a considerable height, the road traverses the bed of a little lake, the *Lac du Chède*; in which, as in a mirror, in former days a fine view of the summit of Mont Blanc, towering over the lower range of mountains, was reflected; this was one of the little "lions" in the excursion to Chamouni; but a *débâcle* of black mud and stones descended in 1837, and filled it, and the lake of Chède is no more.

The road, still rising above the spot where the lake was, turns into a deep recess of the mountain side, to cross the bed of a wild torrent, which is apt to cover the road, after every severe storm, with rubbish. From this spot there is a descent through a forest to

*Servoz* village (Inn: L'Univers, tolerable). Here the horses are usually rested, and the traveller may enjoy a glorious view of the summit of Mont Blanc, which is concealed nearer to Chamouni.

Here the minerals of Mont Blanc are sold, but the collections at Chamouni are larger.

[At Servoz, guides may be had to accompany the traveller to the *Buet*, one of the panorama-commanding summits near Mont Blanc, and up to the *Col d'Anterne*, a mule-path leading over into the Valley of Sixt (Rte. 143), a very interesting excursion.]

The mountain above Servoz abounds in tertiary fossils.

From Servoz the road, after crossing the torrent of the Dioza, which descends from the Buet, near the adit of a copper-mine, lies close under the foot of the Breven, between this mountain and the Arve, which issues at Pont Pelissier from a fine gorge. Near the Pont Pelissier, on a mound,

are the ruins of the Castle of St. Michael.

After crossing Pont Pelissier another very steep and stony ascent opposes the traveller's course, called *Les Montets*: the road, an effort of nature with little aid from man, with difficulty labours up its rocky slope. The Arve on the l. rushes down it as by a staircase in constant leaps, in places plunging into ravines and chasms, whose depth makes one shudder to look down. Arrived at the top of this steep, you find yourself in an upper story of the valley of the Arve.

From the Montets, the enormous mass of Mont Blanc, now in close proximity, is magnificent; but the summit can no longer be seen; it is concealed by the vast Dome du Gouté.

The course from the Montets lies through some fine meadows to

*Les Ouches*, the first village in the valley of Chamouni.

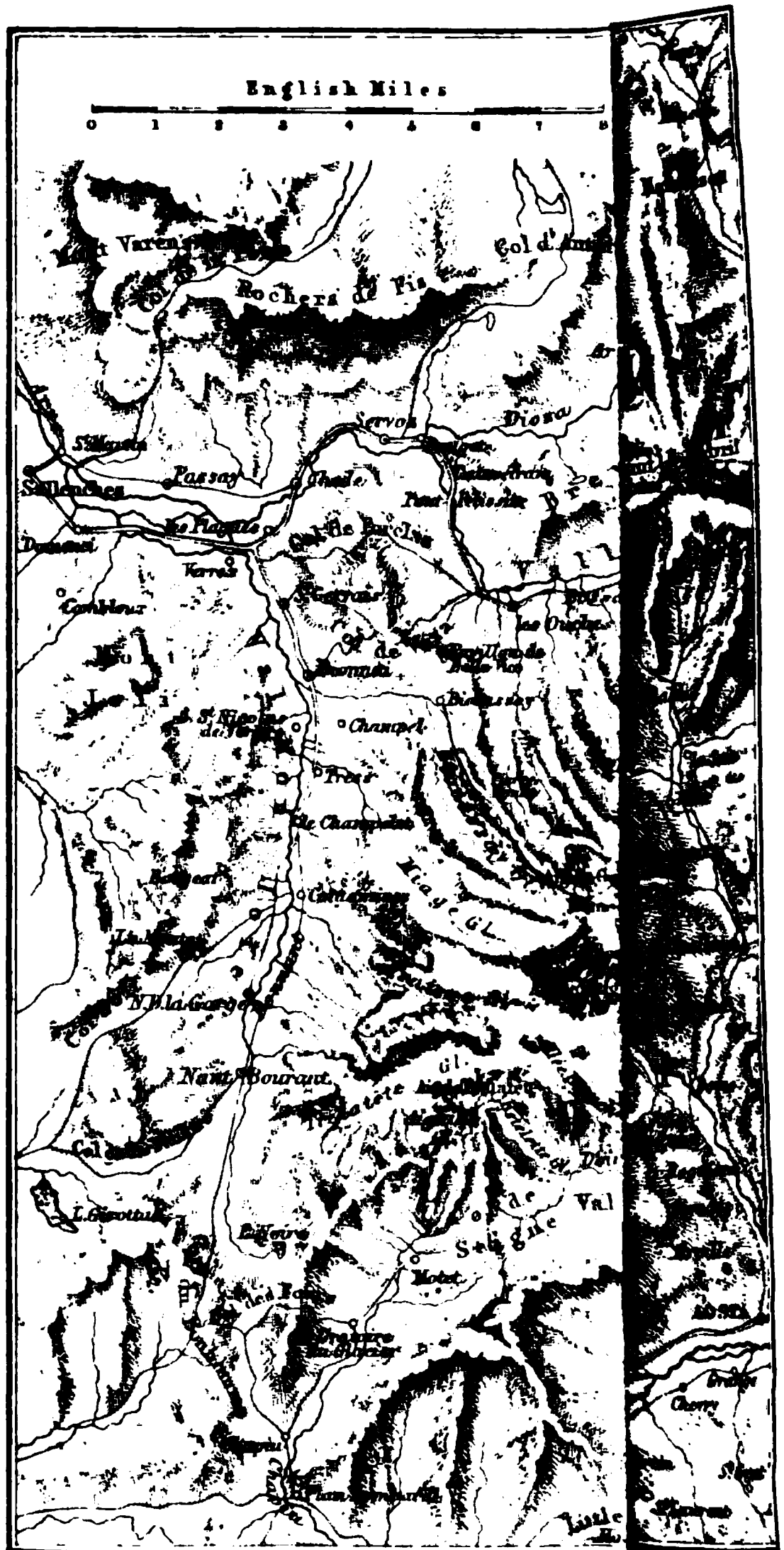
[Here diverge the path over the Col de Voza to St. Gervais, and the Col du Bonhomme (Rte. 139).]

Even from Les Montets, the white lines of *glaciers* (§ 16) are seen to extend themselves into the valley. The first is that of *Taconey*, which is 2 m. up the valley above Les Ouches. It is, however, so mere a line compared with the vastness of other objects around, that the traveller will probably be disappointed in its apparent size. Numerous torrents are passed, descending furiously from the glaciers of Mont Blanc, and cutting deep channels. It is no easy matter to maintain the parapets and bridges, which are liable to be carried away by every storm. The valley now expands considerably.

About half a league beyond the stream from the glacier of Taconey, is the hamlet of *Bossons*, and near the glacier of *Bossons*, which stretches further out into the valley than any other. It is a beautiful object at a distance, and deserves close examination on account of the purity of its ice and the elegant and fantastic form of its ice pyramids. The Pavilion, a very short walk from the high road,







by the guide to the Jardin, the Mont Breven, or other distant excursions.

Kährli Frères, Auguste Balmat, and Co., keep a shop for the sale of carved wood, polished stones, crystals, &c.

#### EXCURSIONS AROUND CHAMOUNI.

" — Above me are the Alps,  
The Palaces of Nature, whose vast walls  
Have pinnacled in clouds their snowy scalps,  
And throned Eternity in icy halls  
Of cold sublimity, where forms and falls  
The Avalanche, the thunderbolt of snow!  
All that expands the spirit, yet appals,  
Gather around these summits, as to show  
How earth may pierce to Heaven, yet leave  
vain man below."

" When cloudy weather forbids your thinking of excursions in which a distant view is the chief object, a visit to the *Cascade du Dard* may be made.

This *Cascade* has superseded the *Pélerin*s. Its situation is more picturesque, and it is a little nearer Chamouni—about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an hr. from the village. It will well repay a visit on an "off day." Cross the bridge and turn to the rt., and in less than 10 min. you will find the path divide at the second cluster of cottages. Take the l. or upper one, which passes a sort of little amphitheatre of ground hollowed in the fields, and bear to the l. towards and through a pine-wood in a slanting and southerly direction. The path is tolerably clear, and leads to the edge of a ravine of large boulders of granite, through which the stream which feeds and flows from the cascade, runs. Do not cross this stream, but keep up its right side, and you will soon see the *chalet* of the cascade—at which refreshments can be had—before you, on the opposite side of the stream, to which you must cross by a plank. Then descend to the bottom of the fall by a path at the corner of the *chalet*. The situation of this cascade is charming, and well repays a visit. You may return if you please by a path which descends to the

village of Les *Pélerin*s, or an easy and pleasant walk of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an hr. brings you to the *Glacier des Bossons*. The rock which occasioned the peculiar shape of the cascade des *Pélerin*s has been carried away by the torrent, and the *Pélerin*s is no longer worth a visit. From the *Cascade du Dard* there is also a path which leads you in about 2 hrs. by a steep but safe ascent to the *Châlet de la Pierre-Pointue*, which is the first stage on the Chamouni route to the summit of Mt. Blanc. This is a pleasant walk, for the most part through a pine and larch forest, with fine and near views of the *Glacier des Bossons* on your l., and of the *Brévent* and the *Aiguilles Rouges* on the opposite side of the valley.

b. *The Montanvert*.—This is generally the first, often the only excursion made from Chamouni. The object of it is to visit the *Mer de Glace*, the great glacier which terminates in the *Glacier du Bois*, and the source of the *Arveron*, in the valley of Chamouni. There is a mule-road, and the inn or pavillon on the Montanvert may be reached on mules in 2 hrs.: to descend takes about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. No occasion for a guide except to show the way, which is very easy to find. To go to the Montanvert you cross the *Arve* and keep to the l. over the meadows, by a path which traverses the valley to the foot of the mountain, where the path rises above the valley, through the forest of pines skirting the base of the mountain, in some places rather steep; when once in the wood it is not easy to miss the way.

Occasional openings among the trees afford peeps into the valley of the *Arve* up and down, of the *Flégère* and *Breven* opposite, and mark the height rapidly attained. Sometimes the path crosses the channels of winter avalanches. As you mount higher, that gigantic obelisk of granite, the *Aiguille de Dru*, peers down upon you from above the pine-tops, and becomes a most striking feature in the scene.

An *Inn*, or *Pavillon*, affording limited sleeping accommodation (3

bed-rooms) and moderate fare, has been built on the Montanvert, and is kept by the worthy guide, David Coutet. It has succeeded to the rude hut, composed of a boulder stone and dry wall turfed over, beneath which Saussure slept, and to the regularly built cabin, called "Château de Blair," from the Englishman who erected it, 1778-81. Here Professor Tyndall spent many weeks while investigating the theory of glacier movement. The inn is a good station for visiting the higher part of the Mer de Glace, Jardin, &c.; although the thermometer sometimes sinks to 39° Fahr. in Sept. Prof. Forbes determined its height above the sea-level at 6303 ft.

From the Montanvert the Mer de Glace is seen to an extent of 2 leagues up the valley, towards the Mont Perriades and the Aiguilles of Lechaud, on either side of which a branch extends; that on the S.W. forming the *Glacier du Géant*, that extending nearly due S. is the *Glacier de Lechaud*, which again divides, sending off to the E. the *Glacier du Talèfre*. The view of this enormous sea of ice is one of the most striking scenes of wonder, but its great extent, from the vast size of every object about it, is not appreciated at first. Directly across the Mer de Glace are some of the finest of those pinnacled mountains which form so striking and peculiar a feature in the Chamouni scenery. The nearest is the Aiguille de *Dru*, and further on to the rt. is the Aiguille du *Moine*. A thousand nameless pinnacles pierce the clouds between them, and seem to prop the loftiest of this stupendous mass, which is the Aiguille *Verte*, rising more than 13,000 ft. above the level of the sea, and nearly 7000 ft. above the Montanvert. Immediately below the Montanvert is the *Pierre des Anglais*. As you ascend to the Montanvert, there are frequent openings in the wood which afford fine views of the Brévent and the Aiguilles Rouges, which well deserve attention; and observe, too, the beautiful swelling bosoms of wood, separated from each other by the courses of the mountain

torrents, which are situated under that range.

Those who do not intend to cross the Mer de Glace, should, at least, descend upon it, to have a just idea of its character, and should walk far enough upon it, 50 or 100 yds., to observe close at hand the intense blue colour in the crevices, which cannot be conceived when looking down from a distance, on account of the stones and soil which cover its surface. Those who wish to see more, and to enjoy the novel feeling of walking on a glacier and finding the sun intensely hot upon the ice, will cross the glacier to the Chapeau (*g*), and the mules may be sent round to meet the travellers at the foot of the Chapeau. The passage of the glacier occupies about half an hour, and in ordinary seasons presents no danger. Each lady will require a guide to assist, and the guides generally make an extra demand for so doing. Those who do not cross the glacier will return from the Montanvert by the mule-path, which may be left about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hr. from the top, and by a very steep descent, called *Filiar*, the source of the Arveron (*f*) may be reached. If this path is taken, the mules should be sent on to meet the travellers at Les Prés.

*c. The Jardin.*—Those who wish to cross the Mer de Glace, and visit the Jardin, on the Glacier de Talèfre, one of the most striking excursions in the whole range of the Alps, may either sleep at the Montanvert or take a mule up to the top of it. Thence it is a walk of 4 hrs. to the Jardin, and 3 to return, and the whole expedition, including halts, will occupy about 13 hrs. Provisions can be obtained at the Montanvert. No person should go alone, and those not well used to the glacier should take a guide for each traveller. Ladies who venture will require guides. The great object of the excursion is to enter more into the heart of Mont Blanc, to penetrate into its profound valleys, and witness scenes of more savage solitude. Improvements in the path are projected. As in all glacier excursions, the diffi-

encountered vary with  
the ice, the width of the  
the presence or absence

taken is to follow the l.  
the Mer de Glace, and  
base of the *Aiguille de*  
here, owing to the rarer  
of crevasses, the Mer de  
be crossed with safety.

leaving the Montanvert is,  
ners, the first difficulty in  
the way, called "Les Ponts." It

is a narrow path cut in the slaty side  
of a precipice; but the ledge, though  
narrow, affords perfectly good holding  
for hands and feet. This once cleared,  
you descend upon the moraine, along  
which you scramble for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.;  
you then begin to cross the glacier.  
4 ridges, covered by *moraines*, which  
lie in the direction of the glacier, are  
crossed. Beyond the 4th moraine a  
point is reached where the glacier  
splits into 2 great arms: 1 turning rt.,  
towards the Mont Blanc, takes the  
name of Glacier du *Géant*; the other,  
on the l., is called Glacier de *Lechaud*.  
Our way lies over the Lechaud, nearly  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. walk, until it comes in contact  
with the lower extremity of that of  
*Talèfre*, which here presents a very  
striking appearance, from the disrup-  
tion of the ice, and the vast and wild  
masses and pyramids into which the  
glacier has broken, in its abrupt  
descent.

After leaving the glacier it is ne-  
cessary to climb the rocks of the Cou-  
vercle, the base of the *Aiguille du Ta-*  
*lèfre*. The path lies nearly up the face  
of the rock, to climb which, in some  
places, the hands are required, as  
well as the feet. This part of the  
passage is called the *Egralets*. Above  
it, where the path is less steep, and  
where there is some herbage, the tra-  
veller, after walking a short distance  
along the side of the Glacier du *Ta-*  
*lèfre* till he finds a place where the  
glacier is smooth, crosses the glacier,  
and reaches an oasis in this desert—  
an island in the ice—a rock which is  
covered with a beautiful herbage, and  
enamelled, in August, with flowers—  
this is the *Jardin* of this palace of na-

ture. It is about 7 acres in extent,  
and the lowest part is 9030 ft. above  
the level of the sea. Nothing can  
exceed the grandeur and desolation  
of such a spot, amidst the overwhelm-  
ing sublimity of the surrounding ob-  
jects, the *Aiguilles* of Charmoz, *Blai-*  
*tière*, and the *Géant*, and the enormous  
glaciers that encompass them; all  
vindicate the truth of the poet's de-  
scription,—

"Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains;  
'They crown'd him long ago,  
On a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds,  
With a diadem of snow."

In returning from the Jardin to  
Chamouni it is not necessary to return  
by the Montanvert. There is a path  
called the *Mouret* running along the  
opposite side of the Mer de Glace, over  
the lateral Moraine and descending  
upon the Chapeau. By taking this  
course you pass near those remarkable  
phenomena of the Glacier, the "*Mou-*  
*lins*," and 3 pretty waterfalls, coming  
down from the heights above. The  
usual plan, however, is to descend by  
the *Egralets*, and thence to walk  
down the glacier and look into the  
"*Moulin*," where a glacier torrent  
falls into frightful caverns of ice, then  
keeping towards the l. to get upon  
the moraine again, and so return to  
the Montanvert.

If the traveller be not pressed for  
time, and have a taste for such sublime  
scenes, he may, by sleeping at the *Pa-*  
*villon*, enjoy these in a high degree,  
by exploring, after a descent from the  
Jardin, the upper part of the Mer de  
Glace and the Glacier de Lechaud:  
for this there will be time enough,  
and even to make collections of plants  
and minerals, which are highly inte-  
resting; the former at the *Egralets*  
and on the Jardin, and the latter  
on the Moraines of the Glacier of  
*Talèfre*, and on the E. side of the  
Mer de Glace. The next morning,  
instead of returning by the beaten  
road to Chamouni, the traveller may  
explore the bases of the *Aiguilles* be-  
tween the Mer de Glace and Mont  
Blanc, and crossing with caution the  
Glacier du *Pélerin*, descending from

the Aiguille du Midi, he will find himself on the brink of a precipice immediately overlooking the Glacier du Bossons, not far from the point where it is crossed, opposite the Grands Mulets, in the ascent of Mont Blanc. From this he will have a far better idea, than from any other point, of the real nature of the difficulties to be encountered, and the magnificence of the scenes to be enjoyed, in that expedition. A very steep but beautiful descent, chiefly over herbage, and parallel to the course of the Glacier du Bossons, will lead him to the valley of Chamouni, 2 miles below the village. A short day only is necessary for this interesting excursion.

d. *The Flegère*.—From the facility with which this mountain can be ascended, and the admirable view of Mont Blanc which it commands, it is the one most generally attained by ladies. It may be accomplished on mules the whole way, or part of the way in a char by those who are afraid of fatigue. The point attained lies exactly opposite the Glacier du Bois, or Mer de Glace; and from no point is the remarkable group of Aiguilles which surround the Aiguille Verte more finely seen. The Montanvert is visited for the sake of its proximity to the Mer de Glace; the Flegère, to enjoy a view of Mont Blanc with its attendant peaks and glaciers. From Chamouni to the Flegère requires only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., and about 2 hrs. to return. The road that leads to it lies up the valley, to the hamlet of *les Prés*, where it turns off to the l. towards the Aiguille de Charlanods, one of the Aiguilles Rouges, where a steep path up the bed of a winter torrent commences and leads up to the pasturage of Pra de Viola. Thence a good hour through a wood is required to attain the Croix de la Flegère, which commands a view of the whole range, from the Col de Balme to the furthest glacier that, below Chamouni, streams into the valley, which lies in a great part of its extent in delicious repose beneath the observer.

Within 2 minutes' walk of the Cross is the *Châlet* of Flegère, which affords shelter in unfavourable weather, and where refreshment may be had, and even beds for those who would await the sunrise, and are not fastidious; charge high. The height of the Croix de Flegère is 6350 ft., about 3000 ft. above the valley. There is a path from the Flegère to the Breven, rather rough in some places, but very interesting; being, in fact, a lofty terrace extending about 4 m., and commanding a splendid view of the Mont Blanc range.

If the traveller be pressed for time, and can only visit one of the spots of interest around Chamouni, it should be the Montanvert; if two, that and the Flegère; unless he feel capable of greater things, in which case, instead of the Flegère, he should at once ascend the

e. *Breven*.—A compensating excursion, attended with some fatigue, yet easily practicable in 7 hrs., allowing 2 hrs. on the top. A good walker will ascend from Chamouni to the top in 3 hrs. and descend in 2 hrs. A day should be devoted to it, and will be well spent. There is a good mule-path commencing behind the *Ch. of Chamouni*, by which you may ride in 2 hours to the *châlet* of Planpra (two-thirds of the ascent), where the mules are left, and where refreshments may be had.

Above Planpra, either a fatiguing path may be taken, which is cut in the rocks, or one that leads directly up the pasturages, which, when dry are very slippery; some patches of snow are passed, and it is not uncommon to observe the red fungus upon it which Captain Parry noticed in the high latitudes of his northern voyage. At the end of an hour from Planpra the path reaches the base of a steep rock, which it is necessary to climb by *La Cheminée*, a sort of open fissure or chimney, about 50 ft. high, in the rock, nearly vertical, with rugged points and edges to be grasped by the hands, and holes for the feet. Above it the path is not steep, but

## ONANC

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- 3<sup>e</sup> du Gde la Grta.
- 3<sup>e</sup> de Hle.
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- 3<sup>e</sup> de Bionnassay.
- 4<sup>e</sup> St.-Gervais.
- 4<sup>e</sup> Bionnassay.
- 4<sup>e</sup> Tricot. { Bonhomme.
- 4<sup>e</sup> Bousclette au Col du
- 4<sup>e</sup> de l'aveue, Col de Vosa.
- 4<sup>e</sup> de l'aveue.





lies over stones and rocks, requiring care and time, to the summit of the Breven; this has an elevation of about 8500 Eng. feet above the level of the sea, or 5000 above Chamouni, not more than two-fifths of the height of Mont Blanc above the valley. This elevation, however, offers the finest view of the whole mass of Mont Blanc of all the numerous sites whence it can be seen. Owing to this proximity every peak and glacier, and even crevices in the glaciers, can be distinguished, as well as every pasturage and chalet on the mountain side above the pine-forests, and below the eternal snows. It is a glorious view, extending over the entire range, with all its aiguilles and glaciers, from the Col de Balme to the Col de Vosa, for the cross on one and the pavillon on the other may be seen from the Breven. From the Buet, 2000 ft. higher, there is a more extended horizon, but the Breven conceals all the lower belts of Mont Blanc; and as the Buet is double the distance from the peak of the "Monarch," he is not so distinct, nor offers a scene half so grand.

The return to Chamouni may be varied by passing on the W. side of the Breven, above the valley of Dioza, near to a little lake, then, descending by the chalets of Calaveiran, a path leads down to les Ouches, in the valley of Chamouni, and thence up the valley to the priory, or the tourist may return by the Flegère.

*f. Source of the Arveron.*—This affluent of the Arve issues from beneath a vault or cave of ice with which the Glacier du Bois and the Mer de Glace terminate. Consequently the spot has lost some of its interest. It is a pleasant walk of about an hour (3 m.), keeping the char-road to Argentière, and up the valley as far as *les Prés*, where that to the source of the Arveron turns off to the rt., and passes the hamlet of *Bois*, leading in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour to the source. The source may very conveniently be visited on descending from the Flegère, or by a short cut from the Montanvert, or on the way

to the Chapeau. The vault of ice varies greatly in different seasons, and at different times a change of from 30 to 100 ft. of height in the arch has been remarked. At times it may be entered, but with some risk, owing to the danger of blocks of ice detaching themselves from the vault. In 1797 three persons were crushed.

The scenery around the source is very grand; the deep blackness of the depth of vault, the bright and beautiful azure where the light is transmitted through the ice, are striking. The enormous rocks brought down by the glacier from the mountains above, here tumble over and are deposited in the bed of the Arve. Here, too, the dark forest, and the broken trunks of pines, add to the wild character of the scene.

The advance and recession of the glaciers depend upon the seasons. If it be hot, a larger quantity of ice is melted, while a wet season, by depositing a greater quantity of snow, and diminishing the rate of melting, causes the glacier to advance. Sometimes the difference is many hundred feet. It is not more than 40 years since the Glacier du Bois reached the forests of pines, now passed through in approaching to it.

*g. The Chapeau* is one of the points of view over the Mer de Glace, on the side furthest from Chamouni; from it the Aiguilles of Charmoz and Blaitière are seen immediately under Mont Blanc, with the vale of Chamouni, the Breven, and other vast and interesting objects; but its chief interest lies in its proximity to the Mer de Glace, where the glacier begins to break into pyramids and obelisks of ice, which are sometimes seen to fall with a terrific crash. A visit to the Chapeau may be accomplished either on foot or with the mules: if you go direct to it, you must continue along the valley as far as the village of Les Tines; and, after having passed this picturesque spot, ascend a narrow road on the right hand that leads to the scattered hamlet of Lavanché, continue through this latter by a good mule-

path beside the glacier, until you arrive at the foot of the ascent to the Chapeau. Here it is necessary to leave your mules in care of a boy, while the guide conducts you to a cavern, where there is a *châlet*, above which is the grass mound properly called the Chapeau: strangers in general are satisfied with a visit to the *châlet*, whence the view is unique and very astonishing, displaying the glacier split and fractured into the needles on the verge of its descent into the valley below.

On your return from the Chapeau you descend by the same path as far as Les Tines, whence there is a road on the left to the hamlet of Les Bois, situated at the source of the Arveron. This excursion may be accomplished in about 5 hrs., and will prove one of the most agreeable and least fatiguing that are made from Chamouni.

From the Chapeau the hut on the Montanvert may be reached by at first continuing to ascend on the E. side of the glacier, to a spot where a path has been hewn out of the face of a precipice, nearly perpendicular, called *Mauvais Pas*. This was formerly difficult, but steps have been cut, and an iron rod fixed in the rock, to serve as a banister, so that ladies pass daily without difficulty. Descending by this path, the moraine and then the glacier is reached, which may be crossed to the Montanvert (see *b*).

In the month of July, when the weather permits, a large number of heifers are driven from Chamouni, each attended by its owner, to the hut on Montanvert, for the purpose of being conducted across the Mer de Glace, to pass their summer of 3 months on the slopes of the mountains that are near the Aiguille de Dru. Before they are launched upon the sea of ice, a number of peasants precede them with hatchets and other tools, in order to level such places as may thus be rendered less dangerous, although accidents generally attend this transit. At certain intervals men are stationed to point out the line of march; the operation, which requires several hours, and is truly picturesque

to witness, is worthy the attention of a stranger who should happen to be at Chamouni at the time: it is a kind of *fête* or holiday, for men, women, and children attend the procession, passing the whole day on the mountain in the full enjoyment of this extraordinary task. One man remains on the opposite side of the Mer de Glace, as guardian to the herd, that wander about in search of the rich but scanty pastures of those untenanted mountains. He carries with him sufficient bread and cheese to last one month, which is renewed at the expiration of that period, being carried to him by some one interested in his welfare, and is the contribution of those whose heifers are under his care. He is allowed one cow, which furnishes him with milk: knitting is his chief employ, and thus he passes his time of expatriation in making stockings and contemplating the wonders of nature that surround him during 3 months of the year.

*h. Excursion to the Col de Balme and Tête Noire and back without going to Martigny, in about 9½ hrs., combining the chief beauties of both passes.* From the inn on the summit of the Col de Balme (Rte. 142) turning l. across meadows marked with sheep and cattle tracks, and bearing away gradually to the rt. you pass a small lake, whence a rather steep descent brings you in about an hour immediately above the valley of the Tête Noire, whence there is a magnificent view of it and of the Eau Noire for a long distance. The path now turns rt. and for ¼ an hour skirts the edge of the precipice until it arrives immediately above the H. de la Tête Noire (Rte. 141), to which it descends in zigzags. This may be done on mule-back. A guide is necessary to find the path. It is perhaps better to take this excursion in the opposite direction, going first to the Tête Noire, ascending to the Col de Balme, and descending from thence to Chamouni.

*i. The ascent of Mont Blanc is now*

frequently made when the weather is favourable for the expedition. The mountain is now so well known, and the proper precautions so thoroughly understood, that little serious risk is incurred. It should be generally known, however, that those who make the attempt without a good deal of previous training may suffer severely from excessive fatigue, and are likely to derive very little enjoyment from the expedition. From the first ascent in 1786, up to the end of 1852, 56 persons, exclusive of guides, had ascended. The summers from 1852 to 1859 were very favourable; 20 or 30 people made the ascent in 1854, and many more in some subsequent years. In 1860 no ascent was made, owing to the very unfavourable weather which prevailed.

In 1838 a *Mademoiselle d'Angeville* reached the summit, and when there ordered the guides to lift her over their heads, in order that she might have been higher than any one else. A Mrs. Hamilton went up in 1854. A Swiss peasant girl has also attained to the top.

In 1820 three guides were swept off by an avalanche and lost, but when Messrs. Fellowes and Hawes went up in 1827 they took a course to the left of the *Roches Rouges*, and this has greatly lessened the risk of the ascent by avoiding the most dangerous part of it. In 1855 Messrs. Kennedy and Hudson, and three other Englishmen, ascended by a new route from St. Gervais, and without any guides. For fear, however, that others should think that they can follow this example, it should be mentioned that these gentlemen had spent several seasons in mountain climbing, and were experienced icemen, and had also spent a long time in surveying and discussing Mont Blanc, so that it was tolerably well known to them. They subsequently published an account of the ascent, and also of an attempt made by them to ascend from Courmayeur.

Though the route is long and fatiguing, Mont Blanc is not a very difficult mountain, and is far easier

than Monte Rosa, the Jung Frau, Wetterhorn, &c. The expense of the ascent was, until lately, about 25*l.*; but for a party of 3 or 4 it is now reduced to 100 frs. each.

The St. Gervais route is decidedly more difficult than that from Chamouni, and the failures have been far more numerous than the successful ascents by that route. It has been preferred by some for its novelty, and because it is much less expensive. Mollard, Cuidet, and Octenier, all living near St. Gervais, are recommended as good guides.

The way from Chamouni first follows the rt. bank of the Glacier des Bossons to the base of the *Aiguille du Midi*; it then crosses the glacier, and arrives near some rocks called the *Grands Mulets*. Here it is customary to pass part of the night in the hut which has been built for the purpose. Starting long before daylight, and ascending the Glacier of Taconay, a comparative level of snow, called the *Grand Plateau*, is reached: some time afterwards the steepest part of the ascent, called the *Mur de la Côte*, is found, up which it is generally necessary to cut steps. Having remained a short time on the top, which is a narrow ridge about 200 yards long, the descent is begun, and Chamouni is usually reached on the same evening.

The excitement of sleeping out in the mountain is part of the interest of the adventure. This may, however, be enjoyed by going to the *Grands Mulets*, an excursion in which there is no danger, and by sleeping there; choosing a moonlight night and fine weather to enjoy the extensive view, the bright sky, and the thunders of falling avalanches. Sleeping, it appears from those who have spent a night there, is not so easy, owing to the noise of the avalanches and the bites of the fleas! A hut was erected 1853, by the guides, on one of the ledges of the *Grands Mulets*. It measures 14 ft. by 7, and is a frame of wood, composed below at Chamouni, and carried up to the spot, with walls of the rock, and 2 glazed sliding windows. Its height is 10,000 ft. above

the sea-level. It is furnished with a very simple stove, but the cold is usually intense.

N.B.—Reilly's map of Mont Blanc will be most useful.

k. Those who are fond of climbing may, by taking a steep path, ascending immediately behind the Hotel Royal, mount up through woods and pastures in 1 hr. to the chalets of Blaitière dessous, thence keeping to the l., and after about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. turning to the rt., and crossing the torrent, they will reach the chalets of Blaitière dessus, and so far may be effected on mules. There is not much track after this, but keeping round a little lake, and ascending through blocks of stone and débris, an enormous moraine is reached, some 500 or 600 ft. high; by climbing up this the wild glacier of Blaitière is reached (in 4 hrs. from Chamouni), across which the Aiguille of Charmoz may be ascended. Messrs. Kennedy and Blackwell attempted, in 1854, to ascend the Aiguille of Blaitière by this route. Mr. Blackwell ascended to this glacier Dec. 1854, and found less snow than in the valley. By keeping to the rt. after leaving the little lake the foot of the Aiguille du Plan may be reached, whence there is a very fine view. The Montanvert may be reached by a path from the chalets of Blaitière dessus.

l. *The Buet.* This is a fatiguing expedition, but the fatigue may be much diminished by sleeping at the chalet of the Pierre à Berard. After leaving Argentière (Rte. 141) and Treléchant you follow the Eau Noire, and in 2 hrs. from Argentière a little plain and forest is reached, and in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. more the Pierre à Berard is found, an isolated rock, to which point mules can go. A chalet has been built here, where beds and food can be obtained. Another curious rock, called Table au Chantre, is then passed, and the track ascends, following ridges of rocks and over beds of snow, till in 3 hrs. from the Pierre à Berard the summit (10,206 ft.) is reached, commanding a magnificent

view. You may descend either to Servoz by the Châlets de Villy, or to Sixt in 6 hrs. By starting from the Pierre à Berard in the morning, Sixt may be reached in the evening. (Rte. 143.)

m. Another excursion may be made by crossing into Piedmont, over the Col du Géant, 11,146 ft. above the sea. This expedition has acquired new and painful interest from the unfortunate accident whereby, in the season of 1860, 3 English travellers, and one of their guides, F. Tairraz, of Chamouni, were lost in the descent towards Courmayeur. This melancholy occurrence may not be without its use if it should deter travellers not thoroughly trained, and in good practice, from attempting long and difficult excursions, especially in bad weather; and if it should direct increased attention to the precautions necessary in Alpine travelling. The primary cause of the disaster was doubtless the fact that the unfortunate travellers were exhausted by fatigue, but the immediate cause was the circumstance that the rope with which the party were united together was merely held in the guides' hands instead of being attached round their bodies. Except by well-trained mountaineers, 2 guides should be taken for each traveller on this as well as every other difficult glacier excursion. The passage was effected in 1822 by English ladies, Mrs. and Miss Campbell, who, with 8 guides, started at mid-day, August 18, slept at Tacul, and descended the next day at Courmayeur; and a Mrs. Hamilton crossed in 1854. Saussure remained out many successive nights and was engaged in experiments on the Col du Géant; and during the prohibition of English goods by Buonaparte, smugglers crossed it from Switzerland to Italy laden with British muslin.

An hotel on the Mont Fréty, the Courmayeur side, is now open. This would shorten the journey some 2½ hrs.

The Tour of Mont Blanc may be

made in 7 days. 1, 2, and 3, to Courmayeur (Rte. 139); 4, to Aosta (Rte. 134); 5, to the Great St. Bernard (Rte. 135); 6, to Martigny (Rte. 135); 7, to Chamouni. Or in 4 long days: 1 and 2, to Courmayeur (Rte. 139); 3, to Martigny, by the Col Ferret (Rte. 137); 4, to Chamouni.

A Chamouni guide coming to Martigny is not allowed to proceed further, but a local guide must be taken thence. It is therefore best to end this tour at Martigny, whence one day's pay only need be given to a guide returning to Chamouni.

## ROUTE 139.

CHAMOUNI TO COURMAYEUR, BY THE COL DU BONHOMME AND THE COL DE LA SEIGNE.

	Hours.
Chamouni.	
Col de Voza . . . .	4
Contamines . . . .	3
Nant Bourant . . . .	2
Bonhomme . . . .	3½
Chapiù . . . .	1½
Motet . . . .	2
Seigne . . . .	1½
Courmayeur . . . .	4

**Mule-path.** A journey of 3 days: 1st day to Contamines, 7 hrs.; 2nd day to Chapiù 7½ hrs.; 3rd day to Courmayeur, 7½ hrs. A good and experienced guide is essential, and the expedition should not be attempted by ladies except in settled fine weather. A stout walker may accomplish this route in 2 long days, sleeping at Nant Bourant or the châteaux of Mont Jovet, and passing the Col du Four instead of making the détour by Chapiù. The accommodation at the châteaux of Nant Bourant is now very fair.

From Chamouni the road to Servoz is followed as far as

*Les Ouches*, 1½ h., where a path strikes l. up the mountain side in steep zigzags, until, within sight of the châteaux de la Forclaz, it is joined (rt.) by the path from St. Gervais (Rte. 138), and in 2½ hrs. reaches the

*Col de Voza*, nearly 6000 ft. above the sea-level. The Pavillon de Bellevue, erected on it, commands a splendid view up the vale of Chamouni, and of the Aiguilles towards the Col de Balme. This has been lately enlarged, and supplies food and tolerable beds, but the charges are extortionate. A steep descent leads down into the *Vai de Montjoie*, a

long valley stretching N. and S. and invaded on its E. side by the grand *Glacier de Bionnassay*, sweeping down from the W. flank of Mont Blanc, and presenting amidst rocks and snows a wild and savage aspect. The stream issuing from it must be crossed by a wooden plank bridge, a little below the spot where it issues from the glacier. If you miss this bridge you will be sorely puzzled to get across. From it you traverse the meadows by a direct path, through Champel, rounding the extremity of the spur from Mt. Blanc, which bounds the S. side of the valley, and entering the Val Montjoie near the village of Tresse.

The glacier torrent of Bionnassay joins the Bon-Nant, the stream which flows through the Val Montjoie, near the village Bionnay,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the Col, traversed by a mule-path from the Baths of St. Gervais (Rte. 138) to Contamines,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.' walk.

The views presented of Val Montjoie are very fine, extending upwards to the Bonhomme, while opposite is seen the pretty village of St. Nicholas de Veroce, at the base of the Mont Joli.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Bionnay is

*Contamines (Inns: H. l'Union, good; H. du Bonhomme; better accommodation than elsewhere on the road), a large village with a handsome Church, prettily situated on a commanding height above the valley. The traveller going on to Nant Bourant to sleep, should inquire what number of travellers are gone ahead.*

[From Contamines an interesting excursion may be made to the *Glacier of Trélatête*. From thence it is possible to reach Motet by a shorter but more difficult way than the Bonhomme, passing between the Aiguille de Bellaval and that of Échelle. A pavilion has been built close to the glacier, from whence the *Aiguille de Béranger* may be ascended in 4 hrs.]

The path descends from Contamines to the side of the Bon Nant, which it crosses by a bridge near the hamlet and saw-mills of Pontet; rt. runs a path to the chapel of Notre Dame de

la Gorge, situated at the end of a ravine—a cul-de-sac at the base of Mont Joli. On the *Fête* of the Assumption (Aug. 15) thousands of peasants resort hither from the neighbouring valleys, on a pilgrimage to the chapel.

A very steep and rudely-paved path leads directly out of the ravine, stepwise, and through a forest: the bare rocks in the path, and the large stones which fill up the interstices, make this a difficult road for mules, and a fatiguing one to men. It leads in less than 2 hrs. to the châteaux and pasturages of

*Nant Bourant* (a small Inn, with 7 or 8 beds; extortionate, unless you bargain). Here the torrent is crossed by a stone bridge. The gulf through which it rushes has a fearful depth; and a little way down, below the bridge, the water falls into a still blacker and deeper ravine, forming the *Nant*, or cataract of the Bourant: it is difficult from above to get a view of its furious descent.

The finest fall on the Bonnant is one seldom seen, a short  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour from these châteaux, on that branch of the stream which descends from the glacier of Trélatête. It is not necessary to return from thence to the châteaux in ascending the Bonhomme.

Above the châteaux the valley is very narrow, the road passing through the forest, which belts and clothes the base of the Mont Joli; at length it enters upon the pasturages, which are rich, though scanty from the quantity of stones and rocks that abound. After rising above the *débris* which have fallen from the mountains, the path winds up to the

Châteaux of *Mont Jovet*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from *Nant Bourant*, where the traveller usually rests and obtains the refreshment of bread, wine, and milk. A room has been fitted up with beds, and a traveller by sleeping here may divide the journey to Chamouni; but the traveller should arrive early, or secure the room beforehand, and meat be brought, as none can be got. Between Nant Bourant and these châteaux huge masses of glaciers



extend down the S.W. flanks of Mont Blanc; and immediately above them is the vast glacier of Trélatête. This, and the black rocks which support it on one side of the valley, and the precipices and *débris* over which there is a pass to the valley of Haute Luce on the other, almost enclose these *châlets* as in a deep basin. Upward, the valley is closed by the Bonhomme; and, on looking back, the whole length of the Val Mont Joie is seen bounded by the peaks of the Varens above St. Martin.

From the *châlets* of Mont Jovet the path leads up a steep acclivity which overhangs the depths of the valley. As the mountain is ascended, it becomes more and more sterile; the pine does not grow so high as the *châlets*, and on the next terrace above them, called the *Plan des Dames*, the rhododendron is the largest shrub that flourishes. On the *Plan* there is a cairn, a heap of stones, which has existed from time immemorial. Tradition says, that a great lady with her suite perished here in a storm, and gave name to the fatal spot; every guide adds a stone to the cairn, and requests the traveller to do so, from some feeling of awe associated with it as a duty.

From the *Plan des Dames* the path leads up herbless slopes and over some patches of snow, to reach what, from below, seems to be the col. On the left, wild and abrupt precipices rise: and two of the peaked rocks there bear the name of the *Bonhomme* and the *Femme du Bonhomme*.

The crest, however, which lies close to these pinnacles is that of the *Col de la Sauce*, across which a path leads down to Maxime de Beaufort, and the whole course of the valley of Beaufort to the Bourg is seen before and below the traveller. On looking back, too, the valley of Mont Joie is seen in all its length; and there is a glorious vista of Alpine peaks.

The passage of the Col du Bonhomme (8195 ft.) is at times dangerous in bad weather, owing to its exposure to the W. wind, which stirs up those fearful snow-eddies called "tour-

mentes" upon this outlier of the Alps. A guide should be taken if there is the least prospect of bad weather. On the 13th of September, 1830, two English gentlemen perished in a snow-storm whilst crossing it—the Rev. Richard Braken, aged 30, and Augustus Campbell, aged 20.

The path to the Col du Bonhomme turns on the left from the Col de la Sauce, behind the pinnacles of rock, and, ascending but slightly by a loose, swampy, pathless slope, reaches in an hour the

*Croix du Bonhomme*, 8195 ft. above the sea level — *Forbes*. From it, the beautiful Mont Pourri, one of the most elegant snow-clad peaks in the Alps, in the Val Isère (Rte. 148), is finely seen.

From the col three routes branch off: that on the l. conducts, by the Col du Four, to Motet; a middle course, rarely followed, leads to the Hameau du Glacier; while that on the rt. leads down, in 1½ hr., to the *châlets* of Chapiù, over a broken swampy ground. The *Col du Four* (8891 ft.), reached by the path on the l. from the Col du Bonhomme, leads to Motet an hour sooner than by the *détour* to Chapiù, but the road rises 800 ft. higher, and the descent is much more fatiguing; the accommodations, too, at Motet, are worse than those at Chapiù: it is, however, often taken, for the sake of gaining time, by those who go to Courmayeur from Nant Bourant in one day. The track to Chapiù is less fatiguing, but it is easily missed, and a guide is almost indispensable.

*Chapiù.* Inns, H. du Soleil, best, but homely; H. des Voyageurs. By descending from hence the *Val de Bellaval*, Bourg St. Maurice in the Tarentaise is reached in 3 hrs. The path in the opposite direction to Courmayeur leads in 1½ hr. by the stream of the Versoi to the Hameau du Glacier, so called from its proximity to one of the glaciers of Mont Blanc, and, half a league further, to

*The Châlets of Motet.* Here are 2

small inns or chalets, one containing 3, the other 4 beds, clean but rough, and dear.

The three paths from the Col du Bonhomme all meet at Motet; from thence the ascent of the Col de la Seigne, though tedious, is not difficult. The summit,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Motet, is 8247 ft. above the sea. It commands the whole extent of the Allée Blanche and the S. side of Mont Blanc, which, rising 11,000 ft. above the Allée Blanche, without being absolutely a precipice, is in great part too steep to allow snow to rest on it. The ridge of the Col de la Seigne separates the waters which run into the Rhone from those which are tributaries of the Po.

"From the *Col de la Seigne*, an Alpine view of extraordinary magnificence burst upon us. We looked upon Mont Blanc, and along the course of the valleys which divide Piedmont from the Valais, and extend nearly 30 miles on the S.E. side of its enormous mass, through the Allée Blanche, the Val Veni, and the Val d'Entrèves, to the Col Ferrex. Two immense pyramids of rugged rock rear from the valley their scathed heads, and appear like guards to the 'monarch of mountains;' beyond and below them lay the little lake of Combai, whence issues one of the sources of the Doira Baltea; and down the sides of Mont Blanc appeared to stream the glaciers of the Allée Blanche and the Miage; whilst the distant peaks which overhang the western side of this long valley or valleys (for different portions of it, from the Col de la Seigne to the Col Ferrex, bear different names) give a peculiarly grand and severe aspect to the scene; among these the Géant and the Grand Jorasse are distinguished. The eastern side of the valley is formed by the Cramont, and a range of mountains which extend to the Col Ferrex, and terminate the vista in Mont Velan and the masses which surround the pass of the Great St. Bernard. The summit of Mont Blanc was occasionally enveloped in clouds, and the

changes which these produced upon the scene were often strikingly beautiful. Most travellers, whose expectations have been formed upon the descriptions in guide-books, are led to believe that the E. side of Mont Blanc is one vast precipice, from the summit down to the Allée Blanche: it is certainly much more abrupt than towards the vale of Chamouni; but no such anticipation will be realised in the magnificent view from the Col de la Seigne.

"From this col, leading across the great chain of the Alps, we began our descent over some beds of snow, which, lying on the northern side of the path, remain unmelted. After a tedious descent to the first pasturage, at the base of the two immense pyramids which formed so striking a feature from the summit, we sat down upon the short and soft grass of the pasturage of the chalets of the Allée Blanche, to rest the mules and ourselves, and took refreshment, which we had brought with us. The sward around us was enamelled with beautiful flowers: of these, the broad patches of the deep blue gentianella were the richest in colour; the Alpine ranunculus, and a hundred other varieties, embellished the place where we rested; being surrounded by, and in the immediate vicinity of, the loftiest mountains in Europe.

"Soon after leaving this delightful spot, we skirted the little lake of Combai by a very narrow path.—After passing the lake at the lower extremity, across an embankment of great thickness and strength, the path descends on the L. side of the torrent, which struggles with terrific violence in continued cataracts down the ravine for several miles, particularly where, in passing by the glacier of Miage, our route lay among rocks and stones, the *débris* of the mountain, brought down by the glacier, of which it concealed the base and sides.

"The path is rough and stony here and there, and a little water from streams trickles across it.

"At length we escaped from this fir-

tiguing part of our route, and entered the beautiful meadows of the Val Veni, which are separated from the Val d'Entrèves by a high ridge that skirts the forest of St. Nicolas. There are several granges, in which the great quantities of hay made in the meadows and slopes of this valley are stored.

"The forest of St. Nicolas, which we traversed on our way to Cormayeur, is opposite to some extensive buildings at the foot of the Glacier de Brenva. These were formerly occupied by miners, who prepared the lead and copper ores raised near this place; but the expenses having exceeded the profits, these buildings are now falling to decay. Across the valley we saw the beautiful glacier of Brenva appearing through the enormous larches and pines of the forest, presenting a scene deservedly esteemed one of the finest in the Alps. We now rapidly descended by a narrow road which overhangs the lower range of the glacier of the Brenva whose sides were covered with masses of granite and other rocks of great magnitude. The torrent which we had seen rushing through the valley passed beneath the glacier, and reappeared increased by a stream, which issued from an arch at the termination of the glacier, like that of the Arveron in the vale of Chamouny."—*Brockedon*.

The chief glaciers of the Allée Blanche (on the N. side) are, 1. G. de l'Estellette; 2. G. de l'Allée Blanche; 3. G. de Miage; 4. G. de la Brenva. The 2nd and 3rd of these have formed barriers across the valley by moraines, so as to have occasioned lakes by the interruption of the river course. That formed by the Glacier de l'Allée Blanche is nearly filled up by alluvial matter; but an extensive flat attests its former existence, together with the barricade of débris through which the river now tumbles in a foaming rapid. The moraine of the G. de Miage is perhaps the most extraordinary in the whole Alps, and has given rise to the *Lac de Combal*. Below the moraine of Miage, which

occupies the valley for some space, are some chalets, and then a level fertile plain, whilst the valley widens, and becomes less savage and more romantic. Trees appear on both sides, especially on the rt., where the forest is very fine, and clothes all the N. slope of a conical summit, called *Mont Chétif*, or *Pain de Sucre*, which is composed of granite, though separated from the great chain by secondary rocks. The paths through these woods are most beautiful and striking. That leading to Cormayeur, after attaining some height above the torrent, proceeds nearly on a level, until, emerging from the trees, we come into full view of the magnificent Glacier de la Brenva, which, occupying a hollow to the E. of Mont Blanc, pours its mass into the valley filled up in a good measure with its moraine, forming a kind of bridge which it has pushed before it, and on which it bestrides obliquely the Allée Blanche, abutting against its opposite side at the foot of the Mont Chétif. A chapel, dedicated to Notre Dame de la Guérison, stands on the rt. of the way, exactly opposite to the ice; and another steep descent conducts us again to the bank of the river, which here turns abruptly, after its confluence with the stream of the Val Ferrex, into a ravine, cutting the range of the Pain de Sucre. The united streams are passed by a wooden bridge at the Baths of La Saxe, and 20 min. more brings the traveller, in 4 hrs. from the Col de la Seigne, to

*Cormayeur.* (Rte. 134).

## ROUTE 141.

CHAMOUNI TO MARTIGNY, BY THE  
TÊTE NOIRE.

Chamouni.	Hours.
Argentière . . . . .	1.45
Tête Noire . . . . .	3
Forclaz . . . . .	1.30
Martigny . . . . .	2.15

8 or 9 hrs. moderate walking: 10 with a mule, including stoppages: no guide needed. Ladies should take a char to Argentière, 6 m. above Chamouni.

Two roads lead from Chamouni to Martigny; one by the Tête Noire, the other by the Col de Balme. Travellers are often perplexed which to choose of these two passes. The general scenery of the Tête Noire is superior; but the Col de Balme has *one view* which far surpasses any in the Tête Noire.

[Those who can spare 2½ additional hours for the journey should proceed from Chamouni to the top of the Col de Balme and enjoy the view (Rte. 142), then, descending l., strike off into the Val Orsine across the pastures and through the forest, dropping down upon the village of Val Orsine. Although no path is marked for the first part of the way, this détour may be made on horseback, and is well worth the trouble, combining as it does the beauties of the two passes of the Tête Noire and Col de Balme. Another course, more direct, but not well marked, leads from the Inn on the Col de Balme to the Inn of the Tête Noire, across meadows, by the side of a small lake, and finally along the edge of the precipice above the Eau Noire, whence it descends in zigzags. (Rte. 138.)]

The road lies up the vale of Chamouni, by *Les Prés (Praz)*, where the path to the Arveron diverges. The main route of the valley continues to the chapel and hamlet of *Tines*: here

the valley narrows, and the road ascends steeply on the banks of the Arve, opposite to the bases of the Aiguilles Rouges, to some pasturages, and the hamlet of *Les Isles*; beyond, the Arve is crossed, and the village of *Argentière* is left on the rt. hand; this is the third and highest parish in the valley; here the magnificent glacier of Argentière is seen streaming down from between the Aiguilles d'Argentière and du Tour.

The char-road here ceases. About ½ a mile beyond the village the path divides, that to the rt. leading over the Col de Balme; taking that to the l. it rises rapidly to the miserable hamlet of *Treléchant*, passing what is called the Montets, a sterile gorge, and a short league from Argentière the summit of the first pass is attained; the streams on either side take different courses, that through Chamouni to the Arve, and that towards Martigny to the Rhone.

A little beyond the crest, near *Povaz*, the savage and sterile valley of Bérard opens to the left, through which the Eau Noire, the torrent of the Val Orsine, descends; ½ hr's. walk up the valley, the Eau Noire forms a very fine *cascade*. On looking up this valley, the snows of the lofty *Buet* lying behind the Aiguilles Rouges are seen. [The ascent of the *Buet* may be made from Couteraye, following the Eau Noire upwards to the Châlet Bérard, where it is possible to pass the night. The valley of Sixt (Rte. 143) may be reached either by passing over the summit of the Buet, or by the Col de l'Echaud, S.W. of the summit.] After passing the hamlet of Couteraye the road descends to

*Val Orsine*, the chief village of the valley, where it is possible to get a bed. Its church having been more than once swept away, a strong rampart of masonry and earth has been raised to defend it from similar cata-

*H. de la Cascade Barberine*, half-way to Martigny. ½ hr's. walk from this there is a very beautiful waterfall on the W. side of the valley called

*Cascade Barberine.* This cascade is one of the most beautiful in the Alps, and well worth a *détour*, which it involves.

The valley now narrows to a gorge: through it, the torrent forces its way into the more open valley below, acquiring in its course the contributions of numerous waterfalls and streams from the glaciers above.

In this gorge an old *barrier* or *gate* marks the frontier of Vallais, near to which a small redoubt has been thrown up: soon after the torrent is crossed, at a spot where a mill and some pleasant meadows contrast with the generally savage character of the deep valley. There is hardly a spot in the Alps which affords grander scenery than the 3 m. between the inns of the Cascade and Tête Noire—rocks and pine-woods, ice above, the torrent or verdant meadows below, and in the distance, looking back, the glorious peak of the Aiguilles Rouges.

[From this point a very beautiful mule-path strikes off into the valley of the Rhone, down the valley of the Trient. (See end of this Route.)]

To avoid a bad place, called Mau-pas, a short tunnel is pierced through a rock, in a situation of singular grandeur, where it overhangs precipitously the dark valley beneath.

10 min. beyond the tunnel (Roche Percée) is the *Hôtel de la Tête Noire*. This is the usual halting-place between Chamouni and Martigny, about 4½ hrs. from Chamouni). This is a very good and comfortable place for those to sleep at who are unwilling to fatigue themselves by going from Chamouni to Martigny in one day. Close to the inn is the path already mentioned leading to the Col de Balme, and that described in next page, down the Vale of the Trient.

Near this spot the road turns abruptly into the dark forest of Trient, passing round the shoulder of a mountain covered with dark forests: this shoulder is called the Tête Noire, beyond which the road through the forest continues for half an hour. In the depths below the forest, the torrent

of the Trient is heard forcing its way into the Eau Noire, which it joins before their streams fall into the Rhone.

On leaving the forest, the valley of Trient opens, and the traveller reaches *Trient*, a hamlet with a poor *Inn*.

The little valley of Trient is deeply seated amidst pine forests, the *débris* of the surrounding mountains, and the fearful precipices from which these have been detached. In the plain of the valley some barley is grown, and the meadows are luxuriant.

A little way beyond the hamlet of Trient, the torrent which descends from the glacier of Trient is crossed, and a steep path leads up through the forest which clothes the mountain side of the *Forclaz* (30 min.). About half way up, the path from the Col de Balme falls in. [The traveller who is going from the Forclaz to the Great St. Bernard may agreeably vary the hackneyed route by Martigny and Sembranchier, by following the valley of Champez. It is a bridle-path that requires 9 hrs. Ladies should therefore sleep the previous night at the Tête Noire inn. From the Forclaz the path diverges and gradually ascends, and between the *châlets* of La Giete and Bovine affords a more extensive and magnificent view than from the Forclaz. Milk in abundance can be got at Bovine. A little after, the path descends by sharp zigzags to the bottom of the valley of Champez, and crosses its torrent by a plank-bridge. Thence it runs parallel to, but above, the torrent, and passes the village of Champez; this part of the road is bad. Beautiful meadows and woods succeed; at last, on emerging from a pine-wood, the secluded little lake of Champez is seen, set in a fringe of firs, with the splendid Combin towering in the distance behind it. Its water is very clear and shallow. A rapid descent of ¾ hr. to Orsières.]

On the Col is (or was) a Swiss gendarme, who makes a demand of 1 fr. per passport—a simple piece of authorized extortion, no way creditable to the Swiss authorities,

From the Forclaz the view is limited, but  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s. walk lower down a turn in the valley displays in perfection the course of the Rhone through the Valais, a prospect celebrated in the Alps. The descent is by fine pasturages, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. are required to reach Martigny-le-Bourg. The path is much sheltered by pines and beeches, and lower in the valley by the pear and apple-trees: in the neighbourhood of these are numerous cottages, and many are passed before the path falls into the route that leads from Martigny to the Great St. Bernard, and the valley of the Drance at Martigny-le-Bourg (Rte. 135). Those who are going to St. Bernard may possibly find quarters here, but it is much better to go on 1 m. to

*Martigny-la-Ville* (Rte. 56).

It takes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to ascend from Martigny to the Forclaz, 2 hrs. to descend.

[*Tête Noire to Martigny by the Gorge of the Eau Noire, Finhaut, and Vernayaz.*

—The route from Tête Noire to Martigny may be varied by following the stream of the Eau Noire downwards into the valley of the Rhone, through a very beautiful gorge, and it is *out and out* finer than the usual path over the Forclaz. It is especially preferable to it in cloudy weather. On turning l. out of the Tête Noire route, just beyond the boundary-gate of the Vallais, before crossing the second bridge E. of the Barberine Hotel, it ascends by the hamlet of Chatelard in steep zigzags to nearly the summit of the N. bank of the valley of the Eau Noire. It then proceeds nearly on a level through that valley into the valley of Trient, by way of Finhaut, to *Trinquent* and *Solvent* (waterfall in woody ravine), and thence descends into the Rhone valley at Vernayaz rly. stat. The path was nearly reconstructed 1859, and is for the most part excellent as a mule-path.]

From the l. side of the Val de Trient, the upper part of the valley looks like a narrow black trench, and the distant view of Mont Blanc filling up the depression in the side of the valley of Chamouni, through which the road of the Tête

Noire passes, is also very fine. Curious examples of "glacier markings," interesting to the geologist, may be observed on the rocks of this valley. Beyond *Salvent* it leaves the inaccessible gorge through which the Trient pours into the valley of the Rhone a little to the rt., and descends by a good mule-path through a pretty little well-wooded valley upon the village of *Vernayaz*, a little above the *Sallenche* waterfall, 2 m. from Martigny. The scenery is very fine throughout, and the path well made, and may be found without a guide. Between *Trinquent* and *Salvent* a romantic little bridge is passed, similar, and equal in beauty of situation to the *Pantenbrücke* in the *Lint-thal*. From *Salvent*, two little frequented passes lead to *Sixt*. (See Rte. 143.)

*Vernayaz Railway Stat.* Rte. 56.

## ROUTE 142.

### MARTIGNY TO CHAMOUNI, BY THE COL DE BALME.

	Hours.
Martigny.	
Forclaz . . . . .	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Col de Balme . . . . .	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Argentière . . . . .	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chamouni . . . . .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$

About 20 m.,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hrs'. steady walking,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. with a mule, including halt at the summit. No guide needed in clear weather.

This road, inferior in attractions to the Tête Noire, on the whole, may be recommended to travellers who approach Chamouni from the Valais for the sake of the magnificent perspective view of Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles from the summit of the Col de Balme. It should be taken only in clear weather.

On leaving Martigny, the route goes over the Forclaz (Rte. 141), renowned for its view over the Rhone valley, and is passed; but, in descending to the valley



of Trient, a path to the l. avoids the village and leads towards the valley and the dark forest, up through which lies the ascent to the Col de Balme.

The path follows the margin of the Trient torrent, then crosses it and ascends to the forest of *Magnin*, which takes 40 min. to traverse. The path through it has been improved of late years. It was very steep and fatiguing, often intercepted by the entangled roots of the pines, which form steps 2 or 3 ft. in height, making it a subject of wonder how mules got up or down such places. At length, after climbing about 1 hr. up the mountain side, and through the forest, the traveller emerges upon the pasturages and chalets of Herbagères. Above these the ascent is gradual to the Col de Balme, where one of the finest scenes in the world bursts upon the traveller. Mont Blanc, from his summit to his base in the vale of Chamouni, lies like a model before him, surrounded by the Aiguilles of La Tour, Argentière, Verte, Dru, Chamois, Midi, &c. &c.; and each divided from its neighbour by enormous glaciers which stream into the valley. Below, the eye sweeps its course entirely through the vale of Chamouni, to the Col de Vosa, to its other extremity. On the l., the Aiguilles Rouges are the nearest: beyond these, bounding the valley, lies the Breven, and more to the right the snowy summit of the Mont Blanc. It is a magnificent scene to well upon, and those who do not arrive at Chamouni by the Col de Balme ought to make an excursion from the Prieuré, expressly to enjoy this most glorious view.

There is a house of refuge on the Col de Balme, where shelter and refreshment, with wine, may be had, and where 6 tolerable beds are ready to receive travellers overtaken by a storm. On the descent the source of the river is passed, at least the highest of its springs; the path lies down over fine pasturages, and by the chalets of Charamillan to the hamlet of La Tour, where cultivation, though scanty, is reached, and barley, oats,

and flax are raised. On the banks of the torrent may be observed heaps of blackish slaty rubbish, which is brought down by the torrents, and carefully preserved by the inhabitants in small heaps. The traveller will be pleased with the sagacity of the peasants when he learns that this black slaty earth is scattered over the snow with which the fields are covered in the spring to accelerate its melting, which it really effects several weeks before it would otherwise disappear. This is owing to the warmth absorbed by the black earth from the sun's rays,—a philosophical process which the inhabitants appear to have long known and used; for Saussure mentions it as an old practice. Just before the valley is reached the path falls into the road to Chamouni from the Tête Noire (Rte. 141).

To go in one day from Chamouni to Trient, by the Tête Noire, and return by the Col de Balme, requires 12 or 13 hrs. When this is intended, to gain time it is desirable to take a char as far as Argentière, the road being good enough to drive over with more despatch from Chamouni. The same char may be kept for the return in the evening, by which further time and fatigue may be saved.

ROUTE 143.

SERVOZ TO GENEVA, BY SIXT.

Servoz.									
Col	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4 hrs.
Sixt	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5 hrs.
Geneva	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	37 m.

The valley of Sixt deserves much more attention than it has yet received. It is recommended to all lovers of the picturesque, as one of the finest in Savoy. An interesting account of the valley and its neighbourhood has been given by Mr. Alfred Wills in



a volume called 'The Eagle's Nest.' It may be visited either on going from Geneva to Chamouni, being approached by a good carriage-road from Bonneville, or, in returning from Chamouni, by the Col d'Anterne, leading across the Chaîne de Fys, a ridge parallel to that of the Breven and the Aiguilles Rouges.

The ascent of the *Col d'Anterne* commences at Servoz (Rte. 138). It is a mule-path, and requires about 9 hours to reach Sixt. A *guide* should be taken either from Chamouny or Servoz, who knows the way: it ought not to be attempted without. Take also provisions for the day. Near Servoz may be seen a monument to an unfortunate Dane, M. Eschen, who lost his life (1800) on the Buet, in one of the crevasses concealed beneath the snow. The mountain above Servoz abounds in tertiary fossils.

It takes more than 4 hrs. to reach the Col. After leaving the upper chalets the débris of a fallen mountain has to be crossed by a rugged path. The Col is reached through a fork-like opening, from which a magnificent view of Mont Blanc and its chain is laid open to the eye. The summit of the Col d'Anterne is 7424 ft. above the sea-level. There is another rather shorter but steeper and more difficult pass from Servoz to Sixt by the *Col du Derochoir*, passing to the W. side of the Pointe de Sales.

Sixt may also be reached in a not very fatiguing day of 11 hrs. from Chamouni, by crossing the Col du Bréven, viâ Planpraz—road made by the French Government; avoiding the circuit by Servoz. The roads join at a bridge over the river Dioza. The view from the Col du Bréven is magnificent.

[The ascent of the Buet (R. 138 *l* and *e*) may be made from the Col d'Anterne by descending nearly due E. from the Col to the chalets of Möed, and in 1½ hr. more, partly descending across meadows to the hamlet of Villy (the only night-quarter on the ascent), you can ride as far as Salenton, ½ hr. further. Then begins the steepest and most difficult part of the ascent, of 2 hours' toil, mostly over snow. The summit

of the Buet is 10,206 ft. above the sea-level. It is thickly covered with snow, and on the N.E. and N.W. extend glaciers. The S. side is very precipitous. From this point Mont Blanc is seen in full grandeur. E. stretch the mountains of the Valais, W. the view extends over numberless rocky peaks far away into Dauphiny, and over a multitude of ridges of Savoyard mountains, you have various glimpses of the lakes of Geneva and Annecy, and the horizon is bounded by the Jura. The Buet may be ascended more easily by Valorsine (Rte. 141). From Villy you may descend the course of the Dioza to Servoz, or take a very interesting walk across the Breven, descending to the chalets of Planpra (Rte. 138 *e*). It is intended to make a good path by this way to the Col d'Anterne, when the attractions of this route will be more easily appreciated.]

The path to Sixt skirts the E. margin of the small Lac d'Anterne. The descent on the N. side is gradual, and you arrive in about an hour at the Chalets d'Anterne—a cluster of filthy huts. Here you will find milk and cheese, with tolerably good water, of which there is none on the Montagnes des Fys. Near these huts are fossil shells. On quitting this spot, you continue to descend rapidly, during nearly 4 hrs., beneath the fine peak of the Pointe de Sales, through a narrow gorge, whose beauties and luxuriant appearance are very striking after the barren and bleak pass of the mountain: cascades, rushing streams, and forests of dark and imposing feature, are amongst the varied objects worthy of attention.

Sixt (*Inn*: H. des Cascades, a large house, once a convent, altered and repaired), good quarters for those who desire shooting. Chamois, grouse and partridge are to be had, and delicious trout, the water of this valley not being too cold for the fish, as at Chamouni. The guides at Sixt are very inferior, and are banded together, as at Chamouni, and each takes his turn. The charges are fixed: To the Buet, 10 frs.; For

Cheval, 2 frs. 50 c.; Chamouni, 15 frs. Moccand the shoemaker is a good guide for the Buet, &c.

Sixt was formerly attached to a monastery, founded 1144 by Ponce de Faucigny, and is beautifully situated in the valley of the Giffre, at the W. base of the Buet, at a point where 2 valleys converge like a V. The valley abounds in *waterfalls*: perhaps the one most worthy a special visit is that of *Rouget*, or *Roget*, an hour's distance from the path leading to Col d'Anterne.

Mule-path from Planpraz to Chamouni in construction.

*Excursions.*—1. To the *Fer à Cheval*,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.,) a rugged precipice, in the form of a horse-shoe, guarded on the N. by the remarkable mountain *Pic de Tinneverges*, and ornamented with several cascades, beyond which is the Fond de la Tombe, which forms the termination of the valley, 3 hrs. from Sixt. A rough char-road goes all the way. On the way the Buet raises its snowy head (rt.) into the clouds; is the cascade of *la Gouille*. About half of the way, a humble monument marks the spot where the entire village of Entre Deux Nants, with 30 persons, was buried beneath a landslip. The mines near the head of the valley are difficult of access, and have external communications along the face of the precipice from pit to adit. The glacier on the top of the *Fer à Cheval* is remarkable for the very steep angle at which it descends to the edge of the precipice. It is said to renew itself every 7 years,

the lower extremity constantly falling over into the valley down a precipice 500 ft. deep. In returning, a fit to the source of the last waterfall on the rt. before reaching Sixt will pay a walk of 15 min. up rather steep grass slopes and through a hick wood. The path turns off at a mill. The mass of water forming the cascade wells out of a single hole in the rock, and is said to be as limpid in winter as in summer.

To the *Lac de Gers*, 3 hours' walk, the path crosses the valley in a

S.W. direction, and then mounts by a steep ascent (passing the fine cascade of *Pieu*, or *Gers*, nearly hidden in a deep cleft) for 50 min. A ravine is then crossed, and the path mounts again on the opposite side, until the *Montagne de Porte* is reached—50 min. Hence there is a very fine view over Sixt—the *Monts Buet* and *Blanc*, and the *Pointe de Sales*. Hence to the *Lac de Gers* is a walk of 45 min. over ground nearly level. No guide required. Passing the *Lac de Gers*, the traveller may reach *Sallenches* or *Cluses* (Rte. 138) in about 5 hrs. The ridge S.W. of the lake is called the *Chaine des Frêtes*; and beyond this the track descends to the picturesque *Lac de Flaine*, drained only by a subterranean channel. From thence a path to the l. leads to *Sallenches*, descending into the valley of the *Arve* near the *Nant d'Arpenaz*. A track to the rt. leads in about the same time (2 hrs.) to *Cluses*.

3. To the *Buet*. It is prudent to start 2 or 3 hrs. before sunrise, so as to reach the snow before it has been much softened by the sun. An active mountaineer might reach *Chamouni* the same day, but it is a *very long* expedition. The ascent may be much shortened by passing the night at the *Châlets des Fonds*, about 2 hrs. from Sixt.

4. Two passes lead from Sixt to the valley of the *Rhone* by the valleys of the *Trient* or the *Sallenches*. The less difficult ascends the precipitous rocks of the *Tête Noire*, about the middle of the *Fer à Cheval*, and leads by the *châlets* of *Emoussons* to *Salvent* (Rte. 141). By the other more difficult and rarely-used pass it is possible to reach *Salvent* or the valley of the *Sallenches*. Scaling the formidably steep rocks of the lower portion of the *Pic de Tinneverges*, you may reach the *Col de Tinneverges*, which crosses the ridge of the *Fer à Cheval* at the N.E. corner of the amphitheatre. It was passed by an English traveller in 1860.

For the passes to *Champéry* see Rte. 144.

A *Mail Carriage*, taking 2 or 3 pas-

sengers, runs three times a week to Bonneville.

There are two char-roads to Geneva—one by Bonneville, in good condition; another, shorter, but not so well kept, by St. Jeoire; but St. Jeoire is by far the most picturesque: distance either way about 36 m.

1½ hour below Sixt is *Samoëns* (*Inn*: Croix d'Or, not first-rate), a beautifully situated town of 3000 Inhab.

[Pass of the Col de Jouxplane to Morzine, down the Valley of the Dranse to Thonon.]

*Tanninges*, a town of 2800 Inhab., 2½ leagues from Samoëns, has a castle, now custom-house. From hence Bonneville and the high road from Chamouni to Geneva may be reached in about 10 m. of good road. By the more direct route it is a distance of 2½ leagues to

*St. Jeoire* (*Inns*: Couronne; Lion d'Or) standing at the foot of the *Môle*, a mountain very conspicuous from Geneva. Its top commands a fine view. 2½ leagues hence is

*Nangy*, on the road from Chamouni to GENEVA, Rte. 53.

## ROUTE 144.

### SIXT TO MONTHEY—VAL D'ILLIEZ.

This route leads through charming scenery, and is perfectly easy for the most moderate pedestrian, or for ladies who can ride for about 6 hrs. Good *Inn* at Champéry. There is a direct pass from the head of the valley of Sixt to Champéry by the *Col de Sagéroux*. This was formerly a difficult, and even dangerous pass, but it is said that the path has been improved, and no mountaineer need now hesitate to follow it with a good guide. There is another pass, not quite so difficult, by the *Golette de l'Oular*. Ordinary travellers will prefer the more circuitous but much easier route by the Col de Golèze and the Col de Coux.

The ascent to the *Col de Golèze* commences at

*Samoëns* (indifferent *Inn*). The path for the entire way to the Col lies through beautiful forest scenery, diversified by grassy glades, from which exquisite views are gained of the limestone peaks of the neighbouring mountains. The ascent to the Col, passing the village or hamlets of *Les Moulins* and *Les Allamans*, occupies about 3 hrs.; the descent from thence to Samoëns about 2½ hrs. Close to the summit (about 5600 ft.) are some chalets, where wine, milk, and bread and cheese are to be had.

From the summit of the Col the traveller sees to the N.E. another and higher ridge which separates him from the Val d'Illeiz. Below him, at no great depth, is a stream, the torrent of the *Drance*, which flows into the lake of Geneva near Thonon (see Rte. 57). The way to the *Col de Cour* winds round the head of the valley of the Drance, beneath some limestone crags, and through a magnificent pine forest. The summit (about 6400 ft.), marked by a cross, is reached in 1½ hr. from the Col de Golèze, or about 1½ hr. when travelling in the opposite direction. The descent from the Col de Cour into the Val d'Illeiz is at first rather steep. About half way down a streamlet from a sulphureous spring is crossed by a stone bridge. The descent to Champéry is easily made in 2 hrs.; the ascent from Champéry requires 2½ hrs.

*Champéry* (*Inns*: Hôtel et Pension de la Dent du Midi, fair; pension 5½ fr. a day;—Croix Fédérale still cheaper, but second-rate) well suited for headquarters from whence the beautiful scenery of the neighbourhood may be seen in detail. It is rather hot for its height (3700 ft. above the sea).

*Pleasant and easy Walks*.—a. To the Croix de Culet, 3 hrs.; fine view of the Dent du Midi. b. Up the Valley to the chalets de Balma. c. Châlets de Bonavaux. Descend to a bridge near a fine fall, back to Champéry, 2 hrs.

The chief excursion from Champéry

péry for mountaineers is the ascent of the *Dent du Midi*, whose rugged and seemingly inaccessible crags form so striking an object from the E. end of the lake of Geneva. The most direct route, but fit only for good cragsmen, passes by the Croix de Zelèze, and reaches the summit in 5½ hrs. An easier way passes by the châteaux of Bonavaux, 1½ hr., and from thence gains the summit in 5 hrs. The view is magnificent, including the greater part of the Pennine chain and the nearer Alps of Bex.

The beautiful *Val d'Iliez* is about 9 m. in length from Champéry to Monthey. There is a carriage-road, not in good order, on the l. bank of the *Viège* torrent, passing the villages of *Val d'Iliez* (a decent *Inn*) and *Trois Torrents*. Pedestrians bound for Bex may take a footpath along the rt. bank of the stream. The erratic blocks of Monthey and the *Val d'Iliez* have furnished much matter for discussion among geologists. Char-road not good to

*Monthey.* (See Rte. 57.)  
[Travellers wishing to reach Thonon, on the lake of Geneva, from Samoëns, may take the Col de Golèze; but there is a rather short route by the Col de Jouxplane leading direct to Morzine. (For this and other routes from the *Val d'Iliez* to Thonon see Rte. 57.)]

ROUTE 146.

AOSTA TO PONTE IN VAL D'ORCA, BY  
COGNE AND THE VAL SOANNA.

	H.	M.
Aosta.		
Cogne . . . . .	5	30
Highest châteaux . . . . .	3	0
Col de l'Arietta . . . . .	1	30
Campiglia . . . . .	3	0
Ponte . . . . .	4	0

N.B.—It is advisable to send notice beforehand to the landlord at Cogné,

to prepare, if the party be large, as all provisions come from Aosta, 4 hrs. Carriages to Aimaville; thence bridle-path.

From Aosta (Rte. 134) a road leads directly down to the river Doire, which is crossed on a wooden bridge, and a path ascends on the rt. bank through the rich plain of the valley, and through the villages of Gressau and Joveneau to *Aimaville*, where one of the most fantastical offences to good taste in building spoils one of the finest sites in the valley. A knoll jutting out into it is surmounted with a square mass of masonry, with an ugly gallery erected in the early part of the last century, a modern antique, worse than any cockney castle. Within it is an ancient armoury of the barons of Aimaville. It is now inhabited by the Contessa di Rocca Chalaud.

From Aimaville the ascent is steep to the hamlet of St. Martin. The view from the crest above it is perhaps the finest in the *Val d'Aosta*, in the richness of its plain, studded with villas and châteaux. The city is seen as in a glorious frame, and beyond it, towards the great chain, the peaks of the Monte Rosa close the picture.

On turning the brow of the mountain which forms the southern side of the entrance to the *Val de Cogne*, a path at an elevation of at least 1000 ft. above the torrent of the Cogne leads into the valley. Soon after losing sight of Aosta, deep in the valley beneath the path, the tops of the cottages of *Pont d'Aël* are seen clustered with a few trees, and near it a white line which crosses the ravine. This is well worth an examination, and a path leads down to this remarkable village, where the bridge crossing the gulf will be found to be an ancient aqueduct, which now serves as a road. This is one of the most remarkable of the Roman structures remaining in the *Val d'Aosta*, from the times of the empire. It is raised nearly 400 ft. above the torrent, which it crosses by a single arch; immediately above the arch, and under the present road,

is the ancient gallery, which is lit through slits in the wall. The gallery is 180 ft. long, 14 ft. high, and 3 ft. wide. The vault is composed of the slabs which formed the bed of the ancient watercourse. The gallery is entered by arched ports at either end; there are two, one on the upper side, at the village of Pont d'Ael, and at the other end the port opens down the valley. This singular work is in perfectly sound condition, though built, as a still legible and even sharp inscription indicates, by Caius Aimus and his son, of Padua, in the thirteenth year of Augustus. Their name is still preserved in the village and château of Aimaville. This inscription is placed on a tablet just over the arch on the lower side towards the valley of Aosta.

Travellers in the Val d'Aosta should not fail to visit this interesting work of antiquity, which is placed in a situation where it is impossible to imagine that any benefit could ever have arisen commensurate with the expense of the structure. The surrounding scenery is very fine.

The distance from Aosta to Pont d'Ael by the route described is about 2½ hours' walk. For pedestrians from Courmayeur there is a short way from Villeneuve to Pont d'Ael, winding round the slope of the hill.

In ascending the valley of Cogne it is not necessary to retrace one's steps to regain the path high upon the mountain side. A shorter cut from Pont d'Ael leads to it; the valley for a long way above Pont d'Ael is a ravine, utterly impracticable in its depth, which, except at two or three points, is equally impervious to the eye. Opposite to one spot, where the path turns suddenly into a deep rift or crue in the mountain side, is a slide, down which trees cut in the forest above are discharged, for the chance of the torrent bringing them down to the Val d'Aosta. Not one in ten escapes being broken into splinters; these, however, serve for working the iron raised in the Val de Cogne, and celebrated in Piedmont.

The difficulties of constructing a

road by which the productions of the valley could be brought down, are obvious on observing its precipitous character. The valley, however, opens a little near some iron-works, and from where the river is crossed to its bank, a tolerable road leads to Cogne. This road was made by two brothers, iron-masters, who have recorded its formation on a tablet in a rock. It is kept in repair and has been much improved at the expense of the commune of Cogne, under the judicious administration of Dr. Grappin, a physician, a man of general information, who acquired influence enough over his compatriots to induce them to carry out many local improvements which he suggested. There is very little cultivation in the valley, as the produce of the mines gave occupation to its inhabitants; every stream driving a tilt hammer, and almost every person being employed in working, smelting or forging the iron raised. Within the last few years, however, the company has failed, which led to the stoppage of the works and to great distress amongst the inhabitants of the valley.

The hamlets of Vieille Silveire, Epinel, and Creta are passed before reaching the considerable village of

Cogne, 5½ hrs.' walk from Aosta. La Grivola, fair, for such a remote spot. The Curé Chamonen is a stout mountaineer, well acquainted with the country.

[For mountaineers there is a somewhat longer but more interesting route from Aosta, by ascending to the chalet of Comboi, on the way to the Bec de Nona, and thence crossing the river nearly due S., with a magnificent view of the snowy Alps of Cogne. It is quite possible to ascend the Bec de Nona, and from thence descend to Cogne, in 1 long day from Aosta.]

The village is beautifully situated at the union of 3 valleys, and is surrounded by charming meadows, which contrast strikingly with the barren slopes through which the traveller has passed. The valley N.E. of Cogne leads to the Mont Emilius, and is a pass to the Val de St. J.

In the opposite direction the *Val Valnobe* leads to the great glacier of *Vermiana*.

A day may be spent with interest and pleasure here in visiting the abandoned iron-mines. A very steep ascent of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from *Cogne* leads to them. The iron was worked in the face of the mountain, and seems to be of almost unlimited extent. A vast surface of pure ore, yielding from 70 to 80 per cent. of metal, is exposed to open day. The workmen lived in wretched cabins during the week, but descended to spend their Sundays in the valley. The height of the mine above the valley is at least 3000 ft., and as much as 120 rubbie or 3000 lbs. of ore was brought down at once, upon sledges worked by men in a most extraordinary manner.

On the mountains near *Cogne* are some of the few *bouquetins* left in the Alps. Their destruction is prohibited under heavy penalties. The King of Italy resorts hither for the chase, and as hunting châteaux on the mountains.

On leaving *Cogne* for the head of the valley, a good road continues up to the place where the path branches off by which the iron-ore is brought down from the mountain.

From all the heights round *Cogne* *Mont Blanc* is admirably seen, for the valley is a prolongation in direction that between *Villeneuve* and *Courmayeur*. The beautiful pyramidal peak of the *Pic de la Grivola* or *Corne*

*Cogne* (13,003 ft.), between the valleys of *Cogne* and *Savaranche*, is also a conspicuous object.

Leaving the little plain of *Cogne*, the road to the Col ascends by a steep path on the mountain side, leaving on the rt. a valley into which descends the glacier of *Money*, descending from the mountain called the *Grand roudis*. The steep path passes over what appears to be a vast dyke in the valley; the torrent flows round it to escape through a ravine at one extremity. On crossing the ridge, the traveller finds himself on a more wild open ground, leading to the Alps pasturages of *Chavanes*. Some of the lower châteaux are soon reached:

[*Sicitz*.]

further up on this fine Alp, which feeds large flocks and herds during the summer, numerous châteaux form the cluster known as the *Châteaux of Chavanes*. From this point there are 2 routes to the *Val Soanna*—(a) the more direct, somewhat difficult, over glacier; the other (b) longer, but, on the whole, more interesting.

a. This pass across the glacier is not practicable for mules. From *Cogne* to the crest of the pass is a walk of 4 hrs.—the glacier itself may be crossed in 20 minutes. This pass is known as the *Col de l'Arietta*. Caution should be used in crossing the glacier: the natives do not know it well, and when there is even a slight covering of snow, it is prudent to carry a rope, since the crevasses, though narrow, are very numerous. The Col is elevated and very narrow, the view from it towards the S. is magnificent; in clear weather the city of *Turin* is visible—seen over and far beyond the deep *Val Campea*, which lies at the feet of the traveller, and seemingly of perpendicular descent. Towards the N. the *Monte Rosa* and *Mont Blanc* can both be seen if the traveller can climb a rugged rock on the rt. for the enjoyment of these magnificent objects. The descent from the Col is excessively steep, but quite safe down to the valley of *Campea*; here, however, a commodious path leads gently down through scenes of continually increasing beauty. On looking back the Col de *Cogne* appears as if guarded by inaccessible precipices.

3 hrs. from the Col is *Campigliu* (no Inn), a wretched hamlet, whose male inhabitants for the most part migrate in winter into the plains of Italy to exercise their trades of coppersmith and lampmaker.

$\frac{1}{2}$  hr. *Valprato*. Here Rte. b falls in.

b. A longer road, but more varied and beautiful, and barely practicable for mules, is found by leaving the glaciers of *Cogne* on the rt., and turning to the l. up a steep and diffi-



cult ascent to a narrow col, called the Fenêtre de Cogne, a mere notch in the crest of the mountain. From this place the view of the Alps which bound the Val de Cogne on the W. is magnificent, from the grandeur of their forms and the vast extent of their glaciers.

In the opposite direction, the glaciers which crest the northern side of the Val d'Orca are not less striking, and are perhaps more impressive from their greater proximity. They form a vast barrier to the rt. of the Val Champorcher, which opens into the Val d'Aosta (Rte. 134), at Fort Bard.

The descent to the head of the Val Champorcher is rather difficult, from the steepness of the path and looseness of the soil. This difficulty ends before reaching a little chapel or oratory, called Notre Dame de la Neige. This oratory is placed on the brink of one of several little lakes, formed by the melting of the glaciers. No spot can be more savage than this, or give a more impressive idea of dreary solitude.

The path now skirts, as it leaves it on the rt., a dark and enormous mountain mass, and descends rapidly down the valley, but nothing habitable appears. The valley deepens considerably on the l. below the path: the eye can trace its course down towards Bard, and a path across it is also seen, which leads from the village of Champorcher by the Châlets of Dodoney into the valley of Fenis.

After skirting a buttress of the mountain the path reaches the bank of a torrent just where it issues from a glacier; then, crossing another ridge over a beautiful pasturage, it descends to the borders of a little lake at the foot of the Col di Reale.

[From this spot to *Fort Bard* down the valley of Champorcher is about 4 hrs. About 12 hrs. altogether from Cogne to Bard. The road is very bad, scarcely fit for mules, although it was repaired in 1854, when the King of Piedmont and Duke of Genoa, with a large suite, made a hunting excursion in this district. (See Rte. 134.)]

Turning abruptly to the rt. the path

leads in less than an hour to the summit of the ridge separating the head of Val Champorcher from the E. branch of the Val Soanna, sometimes called *Col di Champorcher* and sometimes *Col di Reale*. From this crest one of the finest Alpine panoramas is presented.

From the crest the descent is rapid. Passing to the l. under a beetling mountain, the path skirts a deep ravine, leaves on the rt. some old adits of a mine worked unprofitably for silver, and, after a tortuous descent of 2 hrs., passes by some châlets. The level of the pine forests is soon reached, and deep in a little plain is seen the church and village of *Val Pra*, the highest in the Val Soanna. If the traveller arrive late at *Val Pra*, the worthy old peasant *Giuseppe Danni* will give him his best welcome.

At the opposite extremity of this little plain, the path descends by a stunted pine forest, and through the depths of the valley to the village of *Peney*, and by one or two little hamlets to the village of *Ciampanella*. There is nothing peculiar in this part of the valley, until just before reaching the hamlet of *Bosco del Roco*: there are the remains of a slip from the mountain, which took place in 1854, and strewed the little plain with rocks and stones. At the hamlet of *Valprato*, 2½ hrs. from *Val Pra*, the track falls into that from the *Col di l'Arietta*.

¾ hr. *Ronco*: there is an *Ina*, which hunger and fatigue alone can make endurable; below it, a bridge, in a wild and striking situation, leads across the ravine to the village of *Ingria*.

The inhabitants of the valley of *Soanna* wear a singular sort of shoe or boot; it is made of coarse wood, tied tight round the ankle, but broad again as the foot; its use gives an awkwardness to their gait.

Below *Ingria* the valley becomes a ravine of singularly wild and grotesque character. Vast precipices, gorges and forests, offer alternately, sometimes together, their magnificent



terials for Alpine scenery. The road descends to the level of the river, here so hemmed in by rocks that it has been necessary to cut a passage through them. Enormous overhanging masses close the proximate part of the valley, hiding Ponte from view altogether, whilst beyond it the plains of Piedmont appear.

A path down through a forest, and near some quarries, leads to the Villa Nuova of Ponte, the cotton-works established by the Baron du Port, and about half a mile beyond is

2½ hrs. *Ponte* (Inn, tolerable, al Valentino), a singular old town; its streets lined with arcades, under which the market is held.

The picturesque situation of this place at the confluence of the Soanna and the Orco can hardly be exceeded, rich in vineyards, enclosed by mountains, offering, in combination with the surrounding scenery, the towers and ruins of two feudal castles in the most striking situations, and the head of the valley closed by the snowy peaks of the lofty range which divides the Val d'Orco from the Tarentaise.

There are many spots about Ponte which offer views of singular beauty. The *Ch. of Sta. Maria* on an eminence, ½ hr.'s walk below the town, commands a fine view of the junction and of the valley as far as Courgné.

The establishment of the *Fabbrica*, the first cotton works known in Piedmont, has given employment to several thousands of men, women, and children. The raw material is imported from Genoa.

Ponte is distant 6 hours from Turin, to which city a diligence goes 3 times a week. There is an excellent carriage-road to the capital, which passes through

*Courgné*—(Inn: Leone d'Oro, tolerable)—a large town on the W. side of the Orco. A good walker may go from Turin to Courgné in a day across the Col de l'Arietta; but the stranger should get the assistance of a guide over the Col. From Courgné the road

to Turin continues through Valperga, celebrated for having one of the noblest campaniles in Piedmont; Rivarolo; Lombardore, where the river Mallone is crossed; and Lemie; besides numerous villages. All those places named are towns, and some are large. They are situated in the richest part of Piedmont, amidst Indian corn, vines, mulberry and fig-trees. Those which are placed on the subsidences of the Alps, a little above the plains, are in the most beautiful situations, surrounded by vine-covered hills, and backed by lofty ranges of mountains. Little idea can be formed of the richness and beauty of Piedmont, except by those who have skirted the mountains on the borders of its rich plains. The traveller who enters it abruptly, by the usual routes, at right angles, across the chain of the Alps, sees too little of its actual and picturesque richness to estimate justly this fine country.

head, but a slip would precipitate the unlucky traveller at least 2000 ft. On the other side the footing is firm, and he will soon reach the glacier on the summit of the *Col de Galese*, about 10,000 ft. above the level of the sea, where one of the most glorious views in the Alps rewards him: he looks out over the head of the Val Isère, upon Laval and Tignes. To this valley the descent on the side of the Tarentaise is not difficult. It lies over snow till the upper pastures are reached. In about 1 hr. the path enters a gorge, and becomes exceedingly narrow. Emerging from this, the first châteaux, S. Charles, appear. From these an easy descent over meadows to Fornel, about 40 min. from Laval (Rte. 156). About 9 hrs. from Ceresol to Tignes.

In descending the Col de Galese towards Ceresol there is less difficulty than in the ascent, though it seems worse, for the feet sink deep and firmly in the loose soil of both the Colurets. The Little Coluret can be safely descended, though, from the looseness of the soil, the ascent by it is nearly impracticable.

The traveller to the Val d'Aosta, who has given a day to the Col de Galese, may sleep at the châteaux of Serue, and from thence reach the Croix de Nivolet, without redescending to Chapis. There is another difficult pass leading from Chapis to Bonneval, in the valley of the Arc, by the *Col de Carro*. Ascending S.W. by the châteaux of Cernera, the track crosses the Orco near its source. The ascent continues across a glacier which lies on the N. side of the col. This is much broken up by crevasses, requiring caution and an experienced guide. In 1 hr. after reaching the glacier, the summit of the col, about 10,000 ft. in height, is attained. In the descent, which is steep but not difficult, the source of the Arc is passed, and below it the hamlet of Ecot. Before reaching Bonneval (5½ hrs. from Chapis) the traveller passes an extraordinary scene of desolation called *Chapier de la Tralenta*. It is said that the ancient site of Bonneval

is here buried by the fall of a vast mass of mountain.]

To go from Chapis to the Val Savaranche it is not necessary to pass by Serue. Before the abrupt ascent to the Alp of Serue commences, a torrent is seen descending from the right. Up the left bank of this torrent a difficult zigzag path ascends, and at the end of 1½ hr. leads to some châteaux even higher than those of Serue. The views of the vast range of the Levanna are of the most sublime character. Above these châteaux the path is a series of flights of steps rudely cut in the rock. Beyond this a scene of utter sterility is presented: numerous Alpine lakes or tarns are seen, but no prospect of escape, no path from this cul de sac seems to offer itself; yet in the most improbable of all directions there is one, which actually lies over and over the rugged and pinacled crest of the boundary to the Val d'Aosta, offering a path more difficult than that of the Gemmi, without the protection of its parapets. The summit attained, the scene around, viewed from this crest, known by the name of the *Col de la Croix de Nivolet*, is one without parallel in the Alps: the wild peculiarities observed on looking back into the savage valley just left. In it many lakes appear, and the brow above the last châteaux cuts abruptly against the deep head of the Val d'Orco, which is crossed by the Levanna.

On looking on the other side of the col into the Plan de Nivolet, which is the head of the valley of Savaranche, many lakes are also seen at the foot of the glaciers of the Nivolet, and directly across the head of the Plan de Nivolet is seen the *Col de Rosset*, leading to the Val de Rhêmes, and so, by a somewhat longer route, to Villefranche.

The descent towards the Plan de Nivolet is much easier than towards the Val d'Orco; and having attained the banks of the lakes, a nearly level path leads through the fine pastures at the head of the Plan de Nivolet, yet not a tree or shrub grows here.

and the plain is exposed to fearful storms in winter.

In about an hour from the lakes the chalets of this plain are reached. The want of other fuel than dried cow-dung gives a filthy aspect to these chalets. Below them the ground of the plain becomes boggy, and broken up into thousands of knolls. At the end of another hour these are left, to descend by a path lying over bare and smooth granite, like that on the route of the Grimsel, above Handek. After a considerable descent the traveller suddenly finds himself on the brink of a vast precipice, and overlooking the village of Pont, in the deep valley, a thousand feet below him. Here, on the edge of the precipice, a cross is placed, which is seen from below; the spot is called the Croix d'Aroletta. From it, one of those sublime scenes which occasionally bursts upon the traveller in the Alps opens upon him. The three vast peaks of the Grand Paradis, breaking through their enormous vestment of glaciers, rise before him; and on the rt., a black mountain, that overhangs the path by which he must descend to Pont. Down these precipices he must wind for more than an hour to reach this village, the highest in the Val Savaranche, passing on his descent a magnificent cataract.

But here the striking and peculiar scenery of this pass ends; the valley below Pont is narrow, and with very little cultivation at the bottom. On the l. a path leads over the mountain of *Causelles* to the Val de Rhêmes; and another on the rt. crosses to the Val de Cogne, by the Col de la *Combe de Cogne*. Near where the path to it quits the valley is the village of *Bien*, where a wealthy peasant will accommodate travellers; two good chasseurs and guides live here.

*Gioux*, or Val Savaranche, is the principal village in the valley, and here refreshment may be obtained; but the sleeping quarters are bad. The *cure* will, however, receive travellers. Travellers who may vary the route by crossing the ridge be-

tween this and the Val de Rhêmes may also find lodging at the *cure's* house at the village of Notre Dame de Rhêmes.

There are many little communes in this valley. Near to one of these, Pesai, an avalanche fell in 1832; it destroyed some cows, and three men perished. Crosses mark the spot where their bodies were found.

Before reaching Gioux there is a picturesque spot in the valley, where two villages are perched opposite each other, Tignietti and Crettom; and here the mountains are seen which bound the valley of Aosta on the side opposite to the Val Savaranche.

In the lower part of the valley the path continues at a vast height above the course of the river bank, on its rt.; as it approaches the Val d'Aosta, a magnificent view of Mont Blanc, towering over all the intermediate mountains, opens to the traveller. Here the Val de Rhêmes joins the Val Savaranche, and both enter the valley of Aosta. The end of the Val de Rhêmes appears like a table land on the mountain side, studded with villages, rich in meadows and vines, walnut and chestnut trees.

From this elevation the descent to Villeneuve is rapid, fatiguing, and difficult; and the journey from Chapis to the Val d'Aosta (Rte. 134) will be found to be quite enough for one day. At Villeneuve there is neither decent inn nor car, so you may be prepared to continue on for 1 hr. 40 m. to

AOSTA (Rte. 134).

## ROUTE 148.

AOSTA TO BOURG ST. MAURICE, IN THE TARENTEISE, BY THE VAL GRISANCHE AND THE COL DU MONT.

*Aosta* (Rte. 134).

*Ivrogne* (Rte. 134) 3 hrs. from Aosta. Hence to Bourg is about 13 hrs.

The entrance to the *Val Grisanche* by the torrent which flows into the Val d'Aosta is utterly impracticable. It is necessary to cross the torrent by the new bridge, and immediately be-

hind the little dirty town of Ivrogne to pass a mill, and ascend through orchards and meadows that appear to lead away from the Grisanche. At the head of these the path arrives abruptly below some rocks; thence turning and ascending along their bases, the traveller shortly finds himself in the path which is carried high above the l. bank of the Grisanche, and which leads up the valley.

The scenery here is of a striking character. The river roars so deep in the gorge as scarcely to be heard; and the rocks which bound its course are so nearly perpendicular, that the tops of lofty and enormous pines, rooted in the rifts below, can almost be touched by the hand of the traveller in passing above them. Overhanging the path, the mountains so close in, that the light of day does not half illuminate this deep and savage defile. On a sort of terrace, on the opposite banks, the ruins of a feudal castle are seen frowning over the black ravine, and fitted for tales of romance. From it, the view into the valley of Aosta must be beautiful, but what access there is to these ruins cannot be traced, or even imagined, from the opposite bank, though this is so high above the torrent, that the path seldom approaches it nearer than 200 ft.

This narrow defile continues during an ascent of more than 2 hrs. Sometimes the path is carried on terraces, rudely formed of loose stones placed across rifts in the precipices; in others, the buttresses of rock are cut away to make the road high and wide enough to pass.

At length, at the upper extremity of the defile, the valley opens at the *village of Seris*, a place which furnishes only the most miserable accommodation. The passage up the Grisanche to Seris is all in the valley really worth a visit from the Val d'Aosta, and it well deserves from the tourist in that valley an examination as far as Seris. [From Seris a second pass called the *Col du Lac* leads to the village of Ste. Foi (see below). It lies farther N. than the Col du Mont,

passing near the summit a small lake and a chapel dedicated to St. Grat. The distance is about the same, but the path is rougher and less frequented.]

The sterility of the Val de Grisanche above Seris is striking; it is rugged, and strewn with enormous blocks which have been detached from the mountains, from whence still impending masses threaten the passing traveller, and numerous crosses record the frequency of fatal accidents. Deep rifts in the sides of the precipices are channels to cataracts that pour their white foam from the dark recesses; in some places the black precipitous slopes of the mountain are always wet and herbless, and reeking as if from some recent avalanche.

For more than two hours up the valley from Seris, the same character of scenery prevails; some miserable hovels and a few fields of stunted barley are found in the bottom of the valley; on its sides there is only the dark precipice or black forest of pines. The head of the valley is bounded by the immense glaciers of Clou.

From the head of the valley there is a pass—the *Col du Clou*—by which the traveller may reach La Tuile, Ste. Foi or Tignes. It is high and steep, with considerable slopes of snow, but not difficult for a mountaineer.

At *Fornel*, the highest village in the valley, the route to the Col du Mont leaves the Val Grisanche ascends a steep path on the right to a torrent, and reaches some chalets on a small but fine pasturage. Above these the path skirts the brink of precipices over a deep gorge, and enters a basin in the mountains filled with rocks and stones brought down from the surrounding mountains, the summits of which are crested with glaciers. The ascent is very steep for nearly 2 hrs. up a trackless loose path, and fatiguing slopes of snow, steep and many hundreds of feet across. From the Col, which lies immediately N. of the peak of the *Ormelux*, 11,250 ft., the scene is very fine, not a

of the deep valley of stones towards Piedmont, but also towards Savoy, where nature presents a gentler aspect in the mountains which bound the Val Isère; for the Col is so narrow that both can be seen from the summit.

The *Col du Mont* was the scene of some desperate conflicts during the wars of the Revolution between the French and the Piedmontese. General Moulins, who commanded the former, after many efforts succeeded in gaining the position by advancing during a snow-storm, when such assailants were not expected, and retained it in spite of not less than ten efforts to repossess it. The height of the Col, from the absence of all vegetation, must exceed 8500 ft.

After passing down a steep path, saving on the l. black precipices—the haunts of the chamois—the beautiful pasturages belonging to the commune of St. Foi appear in a deep basin, bounded below by a forest. In less than 2 hrs. the highest chalets in this basin are reached, and in another hour the chalets of *Bonnet*, where the track from the Col du Lac (see above) falls in on the rt. [From these chalets a path turning nearly due N. leads in 1½ hrs. to the *Col de Tacqui*, or *Col de la Vals Blanche*, over which lies a difficult pass to La Tuile, on the road of the Little St. Bernard (Rte. 149). The descent lies over a portion of the great glacier of Rutor.] Beyond Bonnet the road winds steeply down through a forest, and at length emerges to cross the torrent and enter the village of Muille, where another bridge over a deep ravine leads to the hamlet of L'Azur; thence traversing a brow on the mountain side, the road descends to the

Village of *Ste. Foi* in the *Val Isère*. The approach to it is strikingly fine, one of the most beautiful mountains in the Alps, bounds the opposite side of the *Val Isère*. From its base the torrent, far below the terrace where *Ste. Foi* stands, to its summit, which is peaked with a triangular pyramid of snow, the entire height of this stupendous mountain is seen. At *Tuile de Ste. Foi*, a village 2 m. S. of

*Ste. Foi*, lives François Ruet, an excellent guide and sportsman, who will accommodate travellers. Chamois are not scarce, pheasants and ptarmigan abound, and bears have been known. There are excellent trout in the *Lac de Tignes*.

From *Ste. Foi* the descent by a paved road is very steep to the banks of the *Isère*. Before reaching the river a torrent is crossed, which forms, a little way up the valley, a fine cataract. It is difficult to get a view of it. This is the stream which from above descends between the villages of *Massure* and *Muraille*.

From the bridge the path lies across meadows for some way, and on the banks of the *Isère*. Soon after rising, it leads to the village of *Scez*, at the foot of the Little St. Bernard. [From *Scez* to *Chapin* (Rte. 139) is a walk of 3½ hrs. up the narrow valley of the *Versois*, passing *Bonneval*, where there is a small *Inn*.] From *Scez* you cross cultivated ground, to a bridge thrown over the torrent of the *Reclus*. Here there is abundant evidence of the destructive character of the torrent after storms, in the sand, rocks, and stones which mark its course at such times. Soon after the road passes by some coarse woollen cloth-works, and some forges for making small iron ware. Then across the winter bed of the furious *Versois*, which descends from *Bonneval*, and below an old round tower belonging to the village of *Châtelard*. From this place the road to *St. Maurice* is wide and excellent, and ere long it is to be hoped a road of the same width and excellence will lead from this valley to the *Val d'Aosta* by the pass of the Little St. Bernard.

*Bourg St. Maurice. Inn*: H. des Voyageurs, comfortable, rather dear.

*Aosta to Lanslebourg*. Travellers bound for the upper valley of the *Isère* (Rte. 156) should not take the rt. branch of the valley, which leads over the *Col du Mont*, but continue from *Fornel* to the head of the main valley, and the *Col du Clou*, descending through very fine scenery to *Tignes* (Rte. 156). It is a very long day's journey.

## ROUTE 149.

COURMAYEUR TO BOURG ST. MAURICE,  
BY THE LITTLE ST. BERNARD—THE  
BELVEDERE.

	H. M.
Courmayeur.	
Pré St. Didier . . . . .	1 0
La Tuille . . . . .	1 45
Cantine . . . . .	2 0
Hospice . . . . .	1 15
Cantine . . . . .	0 30
St. Germain . . . . .	1 10
Scez . . . . .	1 0
Bourg . . . . .	0 40
	<hr/>
	9 20

The charge for a mule over the pass, 12 frs., and for muleteer 12 frs.—total, 24 fr.

This is one of the easiest passes over the Alps, and probably one of the most ancient. These and other reasons render it probable that Hannibal made his famous passage into Italy by it.

Good carriage-road from Courmayeur (Rte. 134), by Pré St. Didier, to La Tuille; thence to Hospice char-road; good road again, opened from the Hospice to Bourg St. Maurice, 1863.

There is a short cut for pedestrians by the rt. bank of the stream from Courmayeur (Rte. 134) to Pré St. Didier (carriage 4 fr.)

The road to the Little St. Bernard begins to ascend immediately behind Pré St. Didier by a series of steep zigzags, presenting new and striking scenes of the valley below, and of Mont Blanc, especially from the mouth of the Tunnel. On reaching the level ground above, that overhangs the deep rift in the mountain through which the branch of the Doire from La Tuille bursts through into the plain of St. Didier, the scene is fine. It borders a pine forest, of which some vast old trunks hang over the precipices, and help to conceal the deep torrent which flows beneath. The road now goes along the l. bank of the stream

through fine woods, continually ascending and descending till the village of La Balme is reached (1 hr. 10 min. from Pré St. Didier). Here the road crosses to the rt. bank and winds steeply upon the mountain side at a great height above the bed of the torrent; it being impracticable in the depth of the valley, which is here a ravine, to form a road. There are occasional peeps of the river, and there is one of particular interest where the avalanches which descend from the Cramont fall into the ravine—sometimes in such quantity that the snow remains, under the shadow of the mountain, unmelted for the year. This is the spot, in the opinion of those who have most carefully examined into the subject, where Hannibal and his army, in their descent from the Alps, found the way, which they could have descended into the valley, destroyed, and elephants and horses passed with difficulty over a bridge of snow. The road formerly lay on the l. bank of the river. Since 1800, the present road to avoid this liability, has been made on the other side, high above all risk from such an accident.

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from La Balme the road returns to the l. bank, and after the ravine is left the village La Tuille (Inn small) is reached, and the glaciers of Ruitor open upon the traveller.

[A short way above La Tuille the stream from the glacier of the Rar may be crossed, and a path taken to descend into the valley of Aosta, some beautiful pasturages, and thence a forest that overhangs the precipice above St. Didier, whence the view of Mont Blanc is inferior only to that from the Cramont. After crossing the Camp of Prince Thomas, the road descends down the steep mountain side on the rt. bank of the Doire. It is nearly in this course that the Sardinian government contemplates the formation of a good road over the Little St. Bernard, to connect the Pays d'Aosta with the Tarentaise.]

The road to the Little St. Bernard turns sharp to the rt. at the bridge



of La Tuille, ascends rapidly to *Pont Serrant*—the last village—and after crossing a very deep ravine over a wooden bridge, and passing the village, becomes more steep, but presents little interest except to the geologist. At the top of the steep ascent is the *Cantine*, where refreshments can be obtained, and the road then enters on a fine pasturage on a plain about a league long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a league wide, bounded on the l. by the Belvedere and the Vallaisan, and on the rt. by the Belle-face, at the foot of which mountain lies a little lake—the Vernai, which is left in its deep basin on the rt. After passing the ruins of some defences thrown up during the war of the Revolution, when France and Sardinia struggled for possession of these summits, the road passes the highest point, and the traveller sees before him, at the opposite extremity of the plain, the hospice rebuilt.

On the plain, however, there are objects of high antiquity. A circle of stones on the highest point of the plain bears still the name of the *Cirque l'Annibal*. The stones are rude masses, varying in size, none very large; they are about 10 ft. apart, and the circle measures nearly 260 yds. round. The tradition is, that Hannibal here held a council of war. That he stayed on the summit of the Alps, and waited for his stragglers, is an historical fact; and, independent of other and abundant evidence, no plain on the summit of any other of the Alpine passes is so well adapted for the encampment of his army as this.

Near to the circle there is a column standing, the *Colonne de Joux*, supposed to be of Celtic origin. It is nearly 20 ft. high, and 3 ft. in diameter. It is composed of Cipollino, a variety of marble which abounds in the Crémont. The frontier line of France and Italy passes along the crest of the pass. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Colonne de Joux is the

*Hospice*, situated at the S.W. extremity of the plain, close to a little lake. Rough accommodation, but great civility.

The Hospice was founded by St.

Bernard, but nothing of its history is preserved. The Great St. Bernard has absorbed all the interest, though, if the veil of the obscure history of the Little St. Bernard could be removed, it would perhaps surpass in early importance that of its great rival; for Celtic remains still exist there, and the foundations of a temple constructed of Roman brick are traced on the col, near the column. The present Hospice belongs to the Military and Religious Order of St. Maurice et St. Lazare. In one part of the building resides an ecclesiastic, who furnishes gratuitous hospitality to needy travellers; and the other part of the building was in 1859 converted into a tolerably comfortable *Inn* (with a very civil landlord), where those who can afford to pay are lodged. This would form excellent head-quarters for excursions to the Belvedere, &c. One or 2 dogs are kept here.

[From the hospice it is easy to reach the adjoining peaks of the *Vallaisan*, or the *Belvedere*. The former is reached in 1 hr.; the latter, more difficult, but commanding a finer view, in 1 hr. 40 min. Mont Blanc, which is not seen from the Col of the Little St. Bernard, is from either summit a magnificent object. The view is of great extent, commanding the mountains far S. of the Tarentaise, and looking down upon enormous glaciers streaming into the valleys E. of the Belvedere; but the views are inferior to those discovered from the Crémont.]

[Travellers bound to the upper valley of the Isère may shorten the way to Ste. Foi (Rte. 148) by ascending, nearly due S. from the hospice, the ridge of the Traversette, to which cannon were transported during the revolutionary war. The descent to Ste. Foi is rather steep, but this path saves nearly 2 hrs.]

The descent to Bourg St. Maurice begins immediately from the Hospice by a good carriage-road. At the *Cantine* refreshments can be obtained; the road soon after takes to



the rt. bank of the stream, and continues over pasturages resembling those of the Col de Balme, till it descends steeply to the village of *St. Germain* (Inn very poor).

Thence, following the old mule-path, a steep set of zigzags lead down to a bridge over the torrent called *La Recluse*, which is overhung at the point of passage by an enormous bank of gypsum, bearing the name of the *Roches Blanches*. In situation it perfectly agrees with Polybius' account, in the passage of Hannibal, of such a rock, and the events which occurred there. This is one of the chief points of evidence, and, taken with the others, furnish a mass which must force conviction on the minds of unprejudiced inquirers—that by this pass of the Alps Hannibal entered Italy. General Melville, in his examination, the basis of De Luc's treatise; Wickham and Cramer from their researches; and Brockedon from his repeated visits; nearly all travellers in the Alps, who have examined the other passes in reference to this question, have come to the conclusion that on this line only can the narrative of Polybius, the only worthy authority upon the question, be borne out. (See *Quarterly Review*, 245).

Following the mule-path or the long zigzags of the new high-road, the traveller reaches the village of

*Scez*. 2 m. farther is

*Bourg St. Maurice* (Inn: H. des Voyageurs, passable). A poor village, rather prettily situated at the junction of several valleys. Mules and side-saddles are to be found here, but scarce at times; 8 fr. to the Col, 15 to Courmayeur. Diligences at very inconvenient hours to Moutiers, and thence to Albertville and Chamousset Stat. on Rly. to Chambéry. (Rte. 156).

To the Col d'Iseran. (Rte. 156).

## ROUTE 150.

SALLENCHES TO L'HÔPITAL CONFLANS  
(ALBERTVILLE), BY UGINE.

9½ leagues—9 hrs. steady walking.

From *Sallanches* (Rte. 138) a new route is being constructed, which will one day open a char or carriage communication between the valley of the Arve and that of the Isère, in the Tarentaise. It is still incomplete between Flumet and UGINE.

The road which has been made or improved to Megève rises directly up the steep side of one of the slopes of Mont Foron to the village of *Comblou*, about an hour's ascent. Its gay spire is seen from the road to Chamouni, near Passy, and also from the valley of Maglans in approaching to it. From each zigzag in the ascent to Comblou there is a most beautiful prospect, well worthy the traveller's walk from Sallanches to St. Martin's. It commands the valley of Maglans on one side, and the Varens and the upper valley of the Arve on the other. The Aiguilles de Varens rise in great grandeur directly in front of the spectator; and on the rt. of the upper Arve, all the peaks and glaciers of Mont Blanc, and its extreme summit, are as distinctly seen as in a model. Few spots for such prospects can vie with the village of Comblou.

A little beyond Comblou the highest part of the road is passed. Thence the distance is a league, over a road nearly level, to

*Megève* (Inn: Soleil d'Or). From Megève a road leads over the Passion, a col which divides the valley of Haute Luce from the valley of the Arly, by the shortest course to Beaufort.

[Megève is the place from whence the *Mont Joli* may be most easily ascended (5 hrs. walk going and returning). The summit (8670 ft.) is the finest point of view on the W. side of Mont Blanc. It may also be reached from Sallanches, St. Gervais, or Contamines. There is a footpath

to St. Gervais, commanding splendid views all the way, which turns off from the road to Comblou about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from Megève.]

From Megève the road to UGINE descends the valley of the *Arly* in

2 hrs. to *Flumet*, a little town of Upper Faucigny, containing about 1000 Inhab., near the confluence of the Flon and the Arly. On a rock are the ruins of a castle, in which the first baron of Faucigny resided.

Beyond Flumet the road is only practicable for mules: it is excessively hilly and wild. The valley of the Arly is a gorge, deeply seated, and bears the name of the Combe of Savoie. In 2 hrs. from Flumet it leads to *Heri* (*Inn*: *Entrée des Voyageurs*), a village beautifully situated, surrounded by high mountains covered with pine forests.

Below Heri, the path, in many places cut out in the mountain side, overhangs the deep bed of the Arly, and alternate spots of savageness and beauty are found throughout this valley. Its richness in walnut-trees is celebrated, and the oil which the nuts furnish is an important article of commerce. 2 hrs. farther is

*Ugine* (*Inns*: *Balances*; *Grande Maison*), a large ill-built town, containing 3000 Inhab., famous for its fairs of cattle and mules. To the N., on a steep limestone rock, there are the remains of the *Castle* attacked in the 9th century by the Saracens, and destroyed in the 13th century by Humbert, first dauphin of Vienne. It is situated on the rt. bank of the Arly, on the road between Annecy and Aiguebelle (Rte. 152).

From UGINE an excellent carriage road continues for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  league down the Arly to Albertville, through a deep and rich valley. On the other side of the Arly is seen the valley of Beaufort, where the Doron, which flows through it, falls into the Arly.

[A hilly and rough road leads in 2 m. from Albertville, ascending the course of the Doron into the wild and secluded *Valley of Beaufort* to St

Maxime de Beaufort, its chief town, situated at the junction of 5 valleys, accessible only by mountain-paths and surmounted by cols more or less difficult, averaging 6500 ft. in height: they are the Vals—de Haute Luce, traversed by the Dorinet N.E.; la Gite, E. by the Doron; Pontcelamot, S. by the Argentine; Trecols and Roselein from the S.E. The chief passes are—1. La Bâtie S.W. into Val d'Isère; 2. The Louse and Grand Cormet (fine view) on the S. into the Isère en Tarentaise; 3. On the N.E. Col de Fenêtre and Col Joly lead to Chamouni by the Val de Mont-Joie; 4. E. La Platte, or Col de Biollay from La Gite to the Val de Chapiù.

Between the Doron and Dorinet rise the *Rocks of Enclaves*—a curious granite group arranged round an oval basin, so shut in by a granitic ridge that the waters from it are discharged only through subterranean channels, or over numerous fine falls into the valley of La Gite, the finest of all in scenery. In the centre of the basin stand the châteaux of Putray. The *Inn* kept by Henri Martin at St. Maxime is the best in the district.]

*Albertville* (a name given, 1835, in compliment to the late king of Sardinia, Charles Albert;) previously called *L'Hôpital*. (*Inns*: *H. des Balances*, pretty good; *Etoile du Nord*). *L'Hôpital*, with its wide streets and clean appearance, is one of the nicest little towns in Savoy; it has about 1500 Inhab., and lying in the high road, by which communication is held with UGINE, Annecy, and Sallenches, with Chambéry, and with Moutiers Tarentaise, it has, since the establishment of good roads, been increasing in importance. *Diligences* by Faverges to Annecy—to Moutiers and Chamousset Stat. on Rly. to Chambéry.

On the other side of the Arly, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Albertville, rise the crumbling and ivy-clad ramparts of the town of

*Conflans*, with about 1300 Inhab. It was formerly defended by 2 very strong forts. It resisted the troops of

Francis I. in the war of 1536, when it was partly burnt, and its two forts demolished. It has one or two curious old buildings; a glorious view from its *Promenade*, 20 min. walk, over the valley of the Isère (which receives the Arly a little below), towards the Grande Chartreuse mountains. On the banks of the river is a smelting-house, *Fonderie Royale*, where the silver, from the ore raised in some mines in the neighbourhood, is reduced.

finely-situated castle of Châtillon is seen on the l., and the rly. continues close to the lake, save where it passes by a short tunnel through some projecting point.

By a short branch line turning away from the lake, it reaches Aix les Bains Stat.

*Aix les Bains* (Inns: H. Imperial, the best; very good; capital cuisine: H. Venat, near the Stat.; charge 11 fr. a-day for bed, breakfast, and table-d'hôte; Poste; H. du Parc; H. Guillard. There are numerous boarding-houses and lodgings. *Maison An Romain* is a good pension.

This watering-place, situated at a little distance to the E. of the pretty Lac du Bourget, and containing 4000 Inhab., was known to the Romans under the name of *Aque Gratiana*, and it is still resorted to on account of its mineral springs, and of the attractions of the beautiful country round it, by more than 3000 visitors yearly, many of them from Lyons, and coming more for amusement than for the baths.

Its *Mineral Springs* are warm and sulphureous; they have a temperature varying between 100° and 117° Fahr. The *Alum Spring* (incorrectly so called, as it contains no alum) issues from beneath an antique arch; it is partly employed in douching horses. The *Sulphur Spring* is exceedingly copious: it is drunk at the source, and is good for correcting derangement of the digestive organs. These waters, however, are chiefly employed for baths, and above all for douche baths. A handsome bath-house has been built by a former king of Sardinia, into the apartments of which the hot water is introduced in streams, which descend from a height of 8 or 10 ft. upon the patient. After undergoing the douching process, which consists in having the water applied to various parts of the body, while they are at the same time subjected to brisk friction by the hands of two attendants, the patient is wrapped up, dripping wet, in a blanket, carried home in a sedan-chair, and put into a warm bed.

## ROUTE 151.

### GENEVA TO CHAMBÉRY, BY AIX LES BAINS. (RAILWAY.)

	Eng. m.
Geneva.	
Culoz . . . . .	42
Aix les Bains . . . .	54
Chambéry . . . . .	64

From Geneva to Culoz Stat. see Rte. 53.

At Culoz Stat. the Lyons and Geneva line of rly. is left, and the *Victor Emmanuel* line taken. The second-class carriages are very inferior on this line. After leaving Culoz the Rhone is crossed by a fine iron-girder bridge; the rly. then traverses some marshy meadows, and enters a tunnel, from which it suddenly emerges on the shore of the lake of Bourget.

The views over the lake and the opposite range of the Dent du Chat, seen by the passengers whose seats are on the rt.-hand side going to Chambéry, are very beautiful. The

A brisk perspiration succeeds. The appearance of the baths is not tempting. *Physicians*—Dr. Despine, M. D'Avat, who understands English, and M. Darde Dardel, are well spoken of. There is a regular code of laws as to the baths, &c.; and every conceivable complaint is curable by one or other of the springs.

Balls are given twice a week during the season in the room at the *Casino*, where there is also a reading-room. Eng. Ch. Service at the H. de Ville on Sundays.

There are several very interesting *Roman Remains*, a *Triumphal Arch*, in debased Doric style, probably of the 3rd or 4th centuries, raised by T. Pompeius Campanus; a portion of an *Ionic Temple of Diana*, of which the cella is quite perfect; it can be best examined from the garden of the curé, upon which it abuts. Other portions of Roman buildings are incorporated in the remains of the *Château* of the Marquises of Aix, a building of the 16th century. The *Roman Baths* are entered from Madame Chabert's garden. The principal portion visible is an hypocaust. The arch is a most perfect piece of construction, well worth the architect's consideration.

The caverns of St. Paul (tickets, 50 c.) are curious, and contain huge stalactites.

[*Branch Railway* from Aix to Annecy (Rte. 152) in 1½ hr. by Albens, Rumilly, then up the valley of the Fier to Marcellaz and Rovagny.]

*Excursions*.—There are numberless rides and walks in the neighbourhood, whose varied and beautiful scenery cannot fail to afford pleasure and amusement.

a. To the waterfall of *Grezy*, in a picturesque ravine about 3 m. from Aix. The watercourse is covered over by vines on trellises, and the water falls among rocks surmounted with crazy old sawing mills. There is no danger in the place, yet a French lady was drowned here before the face of the Empress Hortense in 1813. Not far from the waterfall are the ruins of an old castle.

b. *Haute Combe*, on the opposite or N.W. shore of the *Lac du Bourget* (Borghetto). Boat to Haute Combe, 8 fr., may be sent round to meet the traveller at Bordeau. This monastery, beautifully situated close to the lake, and at the foot of the Mont du Chat, was founded in 1225. Its Gothic chapels were the burial-places of the princes of Savoy, canons of Cîteaux, &c. Among them are Boniface archbishop of Canterbury, son of Count Thomas of Savoy, who died in 1270; Amadeus V., VI., and VII.; Jeanne de Montfort and her husband; Peter of Savoy; Anne of Zähringen, &c. The original convent, erected 1743, was pillaged and desecrated at the French revolution; in the ch. the coffins were opened and rifled, and the monuments, paintings, and stained glass destroyed. It was, however, entirely rebuilt in a peculiar bad florid Gothic style about the year 1824 by Charles Felix, king of Sardinia, and contains many monuments, all however either modern or so restored as not to leave much of the original. The convent is once more occupied by Cistercian monks.

Near Haute Combe is a tower called *Phare de Gessens*, the view from which is described by Rousseau. About ¼ m. beyond the abbey is an intermittent spring, called *Fontaine des Merveilles*.

The Lac du Bourget is full of fish, and forms a great addition to the charms of Aix.

The W. shore of the lake consists of a tall precipice of limestone, rising almost perpendicularly from the water's edge, and extending from Haute Combe to the castle of Bordeau.

[For those who enjoy mountain ascents, an interesting excursion may be made from Aix to the summit or lower slopes of the *Dent du Chat*, the highest point in the range of limestone mountains forming the W. boundary of the lake. The coach-road from Aix to Lyons passes over the shoulder of the mountain and descends to Bordeau, from whence it follows the shore of the lake to Bourget, about 7 m. from Chambéry. A far

shorter course is to cross the lake from Aix to Bordeaux. From thence the high road to Lyons by Yenne ascends the side of the mountain, winding along steep slopes which command admirable views over the lake, till it attains the pass of the *Mont du Chat*. This is one of the most ancient passages from France into Italy. It was probably the most frequented route until the construction of the road by Les Echelles (Rte. 153).

On the summit of the pass there is a level, about 300 yds. across. The road passes on the southern side of a large mass of rock which is upon it. The summit of the pass is covered with stones, rocks, and brushwood. A temple formerly stood here, of which the foundations may be traced, and many of the stones around made part of the building. The stones have been well cut, and the cornices of many are yet tolerably perfect. An inscription found here has given rise to the idea that the temple was dedicated to Mercury, or more probably to his Gallic equivalent the God Theut, who, like him, presided over highways. The mountain was called *Mons Thuates*, probably from this temple.

The army under Hannibal here encountered its first difficulties in passing the Alps, having to fight the mountaineers, who kept watch during the day only. After having ascended the Rhone as far as Vienne, he led his army across the country of the Allobroges, by Bourgoin, les Abrets, and St. Genix d'Aoste (*Augusta Allobrogum*), now a village on the l. bank of the Guiers, nearly opposite to Yenne, thence, by Cheval (Leviscum), across the *Mont du Chat* to Chambéry (*Lemincum*).

The form and character of the *Mont du Chat* agree entirely with the account, by Polybius, of those events which could only in such a peculiar locality occur. From Chambéry the army passed to Montmeillan, and up the Val Isère to Conflans, Moutiers, and St. Maurice, and crossed into Italy by the Little St. Bernard.

Even without ascending to the top of

the mountain, the view from the slope is very fine. Looking towards France, the scene is one of the most fertile in the world; studded with villages and towns, and so extensive, that where the distant mountains of Tarrare do not limit the horizon, it subsides into indistinctness. Immediately below, on the same side, are the rich pastures of the western slopes of the *Mont du Chat*. Beyond these are the valley of the Rhone, and the hills and plains which extend to the Ain. To reach the highest point of the *Mont du Chat*, called *La Dent du Chat*, you descend to the high road towards Yenne for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr., then take a path to the l., which leads in 20 min. to a small *Inn*. From thence to the top is a steep scramble of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., or 3 hrs. from Bordeaux. An inexperienced mountaineer should take a guide.

From the summit, 5000 ft. above the level of the sea, the view on the eastern side is one of surpassing beauty. It appears to overhang the lake of Bourget, into whose deep blue waters it seems only a leap. Beyond is the rich valley of Chambéry, extending from Albans to the *Mont Grenier*; the town of Aix seems to be at your feet across the lake: on the rt., the city of Chambéry lies like a model; hundreds of hamlets and villages speckle the beautiful valley, which is bounded on the opposite side by the rich slopes of the *Mont d'Azi*, and the *Dent de Nivolet*: far beyond are seen the mountains which bound the Val Isère, and the snowy summits of the Dauphiny Alps.]

At the S. extremity of the lake are the ruins of the castle of Bourget, the residence of the ancient counts of Savoy, down to the time of Amedeus V. or the Great, who was born in it in 1245. He sent for the painter Giorgio di Aquila, a pupil of Giotto, to decorate its interior; and some fragments of fresco, now nearly effaced, in a cabinet formed in the thickness of the wall of one of the towers, are probably a part of his work.

An agreeable way of visiting the scenery of the lake is to take a boat from Aix to Haute Combe, and then

send it to wait at the little village of Bordeau, at the foot of the ascent to the Mont du Chat; and after visiting the chapel and fountain, walk by agreeable by-paths along the heights which skirt the W. side of the lake, and descend by the great road from the Mont du Chat. The boats, both on this lake and on the lake of Annecy, are far superior to those on the Swiss or Italian lakes. The men row well and understand something of sailing, but their charges are high.

[Those who enter Switzerland by Aix, and do not wish to go round by Geneva, may at once cross from Annecy, now connected with Aix by Rly. (see Rte. 152) to Bonneville and thence to St. Martin, and so on to Chamouni. The road is excellent, but there are no diligences or posting arrangements beyond Annecy. A voiturier will go from Annecy in one day to Bonneville and St. Martin, so as to allow ample time for reaching Chamouni on the second day.]

From Aix the rly., after skirting the S. corner of the lake, lies across a plain of great fertility to  
CHAMBÉRY STAT. (Rte. 153).

ROUTE 152.

GENEVA BY ANNECY TO AIGUEBELLE,  
ON THE MONT CENIS ROAD.

112 kil. = 70 Eng. m.

	Kil.	Eng. m.
Geneva.		
St. Julien . . .	10	= 6
Cruseilles . . .	16	= 10
Annecy . . . .	17	= 11
Faverges . . .	25	= 16
Albertville . .	20	= 12
Aiguebelle . .	24	= 15

Since the completion of the rly. from Geneva to Chambéry, and from thence to St. Jean de Maurienne, this route is but little frequented. Those who are not pressed for time, and who

wish to see some of the most beautiful part of Savoy, may still find this an interesting route in going from Geneva to the pass of Mont Cenis or Little St. Bernard.

On leaving Geneva the road passes through the Plain Palais, crosses the Arve, and continues through Carouge and the richly cultivated plain of the Arve, until it rises to the village of

St. Julien, on the frontier of Savoy, The baggage is searched a little further on. An extra horse is required this stage.

The road ascends a long hill to the Mount Sion, a ridge which runs nearly at right angles with the Mont Salève. From its height, more than 3300 ft. above the level of the sea, the views of the Lake of Geneva, the Jura, and the deep valley of the Rhone flowing into France, form a fine panorama. The course of the road is generally high, though it undulates until it rises to

Cruseilles, a little town of 1300 Inhab., the ruins of an old castle, and a dirty inn.

The road to Annecy from Cruseilles crosses the stream of the Usses, sunk in a deep defile, by the *Suspension bridge of La Caille*, of iron-wire, erected by the Sardinian government to carry the road directly across and on a level, and thus avoid the lengthened détours of the old road, which may be still seen winding down the depths below. The length is 636 ft., and height of the road above the river is 656 ft. It is called the *Pont Charles Albert*, and was opened in Sept. 1839. It is probably the loftiest suspension bridge in the world. A toll of 50 sous is paid for 2 horses, and 60 sous for a larger number.

It is a pleasing drive by the villages of Alonzier, Caval, Pringy, and Metz, through a hilly country, often presenting fine points of view; at length it crosses the Mont des Bornes, and descends a hill side which overlooks the plain and lake of Annecy, and the fine mountain scenery which surrounds it. There is a singular beauty in the views thus presented, and a charm in the approach to Annecy which is likely to be long re-



membered. At the Pont de Brogny the river Fier, which falls into the Rhone at Seissel, is crossed, and in half an hour the traveller finds himself at

*Annecy.* (*Inn* : H. de Genève, clean; excellent Macon wine. A fine cheese is made in the mountains.) This industrious city of 900 Inhab. is situated at the N. extremity of the Lake of Annecy, which is discharged by canals that cross the streets.

Annecy is a picturesque and clean old town, the shops in many of its streets are under arcades, and there is an air of respectable antiquity about it—though this, the ancient capital of the duchy of Geneva, succeeded a still older one. In the 12th century it was known as *Anneciacum novum*, to distinguish it from *Anneciacum vetus*, which formerly existed on the slopes of the beautiful hill of Annecy-le-vieux. Numerous medals of the Roman emperors of the two first centuries of the Christian era have been found here, and inscriptions, sepulchres, urns, and fragments of statues, and of a temple, attest the presence of the conquering people.

When the house of Geneva became extinct, Annecy passed to that of Savoy. In 1412 it was totally burnt. To assist in restoring the inhabitants to their town, Amedeus VIII., duke of Savoy, gave them many privileges, and enabled them to establish flax-spinning works, which have continued to be its principal manufacture.

The linen bleacheries established in 1650, which have always sustained a high reputation, are still flourishing. Encouraged by Napoleon, the late Baron Duport, of Turin, established here the first cotton-works; these still flourish.

Besides these, there are manufactories of black glass, of sulphuric acid, of printed cottons, &c., and in the neighbourhood a vein of lignite is worked, at Entreverne,—and at the village of Crans there are oil, corn, and fulling mills on the Fier.

The ancient *Château*, the residence of the family of Genevois-Nemours, is now a barrack—the old Bishop's palace

—the *Cathedral*, with its sanctuary. In the modern *Ch. of St. François* are deposited the relics of St. François de Sales, and the Mère (Sainte) Chantal. The translation of their relics from the Cathedral was made in 1826, with great ceremony.

“The tender friendship that long subsisted between St. Francis de Sales and La Mère Chantal, has given to their memory and relics, with pious Catholics, a degree of interest similar to that excited by the remains of Abélard and Eloïse.

“St. Francis de Sales was descended from the noble family of de Sales in Savoy; he was born in 1567. Having devoted himself to the church, and evinced great zeal and eloquence in its defence, he was ordained prince and bishop of Geneva by Pope Clement VIII., for the popes assumed the right to confer these titles long after the Reformed religion had been established at Geneva, Annecy being made a bishop's seat when the Genevese expelled the chapter from their city. St. Francis de Sales died at Lyons in 1622, and was buried at Annecy. His canonisation took place in 1665: but before that event his remains were so highly valued by the inhabitants, that, when the city was taken by the French in 1630, one of the six articles of capitulation stipulated that the body of the venerable Francis de Sales should never be removed from the city.”—*Baker's Tour in the Tarentaise.*

Hither fled Rousseau on escaping from Geneva; and many passages of the *Confessions* relate to his residence at Annecy.

At the lower extremity of the lake there is a beautiful *Avenue* and promenade, where fairs and public amusements are held. The views from the mountain and the lake are fine. Here a bronze statue has been erected to *Berthollet* the chemist, a native of Talloires on the E. side of the Lake of Annecy, by his fellow-citizens. There are many pleasant walks in the pretty neighbourhood; the only drawback being the swamps.

The level of the lake of Annecy



00 ft. above that of the sea; and in fish—the lotte, and a liar to this lake, the *vairon*. is a favourite amusement at , as there are boats on the d a small *steamer*, the gift of Napoleon III. A pleasant in may be made by the lake to Duing (see below); charge or 8 fr. to go and return. In ading the lake, an opening in the y mountains, which bound its N.E. , discloses the *Château of Menthon*, the delicious slopes of a recess: e St. Bernard, the “Apostle of the os,” was born, and the place of his ivity, independent of its local ty, cannot fail to interest the veller.

If the traveller have time, a short ursion may be made from Annecy to Annecy-le-Vieux; where, on the inner and S. angle of the tower, a Roman inscription will be found.

The establishment at Crans, of the hydraulic machines for the drainage of the lake, is also deserving of a visit.

[From Annecy there is an excellent road to Bonneville on the way to Chamouni. From this road, or by Menthon over the mountains, the valley of Thones may be visited; very unfrequented by strangers, but full of beautiful scenery.]

[From Annecy to Aix the Rly. (½ hr.) passes through a rich and pleasing country, amidst cottages and trellised vines, to

*Rouvigny Stat.*

[The Rly. leaves on one side

*Alby*, a village of 800 Inhab., situated on the Chéron, and one of the most remarkable objects between Annecy and Aix the fine stone bridge—a single arch of great height and span, thrown across the Chéron. This village was, more important formerly when the Comtes of Geneva surrounded it with a wall and castles, of which some traces exist, which were built on both sides of the river to defend the passage of the valley.]

*Marcellaz Stat.* in the valley of the Fier,

*Rumilly Stat.*

*Albens Stat.*, a village of 1000 Inhab. Beyond Albens the road overlooks the plain of Aix, where that town, the lake of Bourget, and the basin of Chambéry, bounded by the Mont du Chat, the Mont d’Azi, the Mont Grenier, present a scene of singular beauty.

*Annecy Stat.]*

A good road carried along the S.W. shores of the lake of Annecy leads to Faverges. About two-thirds of the distance is the *Château Duing*, placed on a neck of land which runs out into the lake. Here many strangers come to board and lodge during the summer, and enjoy the most delightful excursions in its delicious neighbourhood.

Opposite the *Château Duing* is Talloires, the birthplace of the chemist Berthollet.

From the *Château Duing*, the road to Faverges continues up the valley of Eau Morte about 3 m.; it is so nearly level that the plain of the valley is often inundated.

*Faverges (Inn: Poste, good)* has a population of about 2000. It is beautifully situated amidst wooded slopes and mountains; it is well cultivated, and abounds in rich meadows. It was known in the 12th century as *Fabricarium*, a name arising from its numerous forges for copper and iron. It still possesses silk-mills, manufactories of cutlery, and tanneries; and since the completion of the road by Ugine into the Tarentaise it is daily improving. Its old castle is finely situated.

A slight elevation divides the head of the valley of the Eau Morte from that of the stream of Monthoux, which runs into the Arly at Ugine. (Rte. 150.) The valley of Monthoux is richly wooded and picturesque. A good road from Faverges to Albertville (l’Hôpital) along the plain, avoids the dirty town and hill of Ugine.

*Albertville* (see Rte. 150).

Those who wish to travel by the rly., either to St. Jean de Maurienne or to Chambéry, will follow the diligence route from this place to

Chamousset Stat.; but if they travel by road to Lanslebourg and the Mont Cenis, they will turn to the l. near the junction of the Isère with the Arc, and a few miles further reach *Aiguebelle Stat.*, on the rly. from Chambéry to Turin, about 20 m. from St. Jean de Maurienne, and 28 from St. Michel.

### ROUTE 153.

#### LYONS TO CHAMBÉRY, BY LES ECHELLES, OR AIGUEBELLETTE.

The shortest route from Lyons to Chambéry is by rly. The line from Lyons to Geneva (Rte. 53) is taken as far as the Culoz junc. stat. From Culoz to Chambéry the route is described Rte. 151. A far more interesting course may be taken by either of the following routes. Taking the rly. from Lyons to Grenoble as far as Voiron, from which place an extremely interesting expedition may be made to the monastery of the Grande Chartreuse (See *HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE*), the traveller will return to the village of St. Laurent du Pont, a few miles distant from the torrent of the Guiers Vif, which, before the recent annexation of Savoy, formed the frontier of France. This torrent is crossed at the village of

*Les Echelles*. The valley beyond this is a complete *cul-de-sac*. A wall of limestone, 800 ft. high, stretches directly across it; and from Les Echelles the eye in vain seeks for the means of exit. In former days the only road was a path, of the most rugged and difficult kind, partly conducted through a cavern by means of ladders placed one above the other. This was called the *Chemin de la Grotte*, or *Les Echelles*, from which the neighbouring village derived its name. The difficulty of the passage was increased at times by the mountain torrent, which, when swollen, took its course through the cavern. It was

utterly impassable for beasts: travellers were sometimes carried through it, seated upon an arm-chair attached to the backs of stout Savoyard peasants, who performed the service of beasts of burden, as the South American Indians do at the present on some of the passes of the Andes.

An improved road was made in 1670, by Duke Charles Emanuel of Savoy, at considerable cost, by moving vast masses of rock, so to render it passable for carriage. Napoleon, however, struck out a new line, and boldly pierced through the mountain, forming a tunnel 1,000 ft. long, 25 ft. high, and 25 ft. wide, through which two diligences fully loaded may pass abreast. A pompous inscription written by the Abbé St. Réal, commemorating the enterprise of Charles Emanuel in forming his road—which, though steep and narrow, and very inconvenient, was a grand undertaking for the period—may still be seen on the face of the rock.

Our route is now carried through a wilderness of rocks, which gradually expand into a pretty valley.

#### *St. Thibaud de Cour.*

Not far from this a little waterfall descends from the cliff on the r. described by Rousseau, in his usual strain of exaggeration, as "*La plus belle que je vis de ma vie.*"

Another contracted ravine must be passed to reach Chambéry (see below).

Another route for pedestrians, as interesting, may be taken either from Voiron or direct from Lyons to *Beauvoisin*, formerly the frontier village on the high road from France to Italy by the Mont Cenis.

About 1½ m. from *Pont Beauvoisin* the high road to Les Echelles is left, and at the village of Domessin a narrow road turns off to the l., and leads over a low hill well wooded, and thence through a remarkably rich plain, that extends to those limestone precipices which are a continuation of the ridge of rocks that make so formidable a barrier at Les Echelles. Avoiding the principal road to Brides, and crossing the plain direct

from near Pont Beauvoisin, the path abruptly approaches these precipices. Close to their base a zigzag path, very steep, leads up the talus formed during many ages by the débris; in some places the path is so narrow that the wall of the precipice can be touched by one hand, whilst the other overhangs the steep descent below: in some places two persons cannot pass each other. A little time is gained by this short cut, and the situations are striking, but it is scarcely worth the fatigue. It leads to the same hamlet, Bridoire, which is highly picturesque in its situation, its cottages, and its water-mills. From this place the road ascends, crosses a ridge, and enters upon the basin of the lake of Aiguebellette, a rich open valley, finely wooded, and where a view of the lake is obtained;—the whole scene is beautiful.

The road undulates amidst the magnificent walnut-trees which abound here, and passes through the village of *Lepin*, offering some very fine views. There is a singular character of tranquillity and retirement in the spot: the scenery resembles that of the most beautiful of our Cumberland lakes; but the visit of a traveller is so rare an occurrence, that instead of a crowd of visitors, and a season for visiting, a year may pass away without any other stranger being seen than a little *négociant* making a shorter cut to Chambéry than by the great road to Les Échelles.

A ridge divides the village of Lepin from that of Aiguebellette; at the extremity of the ridge on the left, overhanging the lake, is a château, in a most romantic and beautiful situation; the road on the other side of the ridge descends to Aiguebellette, and passes the ruins of the castle of its barons: it is of high antiquity; its foundation is unknown, and it is therefore attributed to the Romans: it is recorded to have been repaired in the 11th century. It was burnt and demolished by one of the dauphins of Vienne, in the 15th century.

*Aiguebellette* is a poor little village,

in a most beautiful situation; it has a miserable little inn, which cannot furnish even decent wine and refreshment in a country so abundant—not even fish from the lake: these are taken and sent to distant markets. The lake is celebrated for the excellence and abundance of its carp-trout, and other fish. The lake is about 3 m. long, and 2 wide; its depth varies, but it is generally about 150 ft. deep. Around the lake are fields and meadows, but most of the slopes of the surrounding mountains are wooded. Oats, barley, potatoes, Indian corn, and flax are grown in the spots cultivated.

It is curious that a tradition exists here that Hannibal passed with a part of the Carthaginian army by Aiguebellette.

On proceeding from Aiguebellette the path skirts the churchyard, and enters a line of meadows beneath magnificent walnut trees. Soon, however, it begins to ascend the mountain side, and rises over the intervening trees, presenting views of the lake, the villages around it, and the distant hills which slope down and border the Rhone. The road now becomes very steep, ascending in zigzags, sometimes sunk in the crues of the mountain, at others rounding the projections, and increasing, as the observer rises above the lake, the beauty with the extent of the view. At length, after a fatiguing ascent for an hour, the summit is attained, and a glorious view is presented over the basin of Chambéry, similar, but not equal, to that from the Mont du Chat. Instead of looking down into the lake, it is seen, at its nearest point, about 8 m. off, resting at the base of the steep Mont du Chat; and opposite to it are the houses of Aix.

Chambéry seems, from the pass, to be just below the observer; and, in the road to it from Les Échelles, which may be seen, the cascade of *Cour* is distinctly observed; its bright white line forming a very small speck amidst the extended scale of the surrounding objects. The descent from the summit of the

col may be made by two routes : that on the right seems to have been the old Roman road, but it is now impracticable for horses. There are traces of its having been a well-constructed road, in the remains of high and very thick dry walls, which supported, towards the plain, its terraces. Albanis de Beaumont says that, after half an hour's descent by this road, there are many stone coffins found at the foot of the lateral rocks, with slabs which formerly covered them, upon which some characters are seen, though they are too much effaced to be read: blocks, too, of cut stone are found, and he conjectures that they are the ruins of a chapel dedicated to St. Michel, which was attached to an hospital that existed here in the 9th century, and, probably, under some other denomination, even in the time of the Romans.

The road at present used from the summit of the Col d'Aiguebellette to Chambéry is only practicable for pedestrians or cattle: it might easily be rendered fit for the passage of chars; but, as there is little intercourse across it, there is no sufficient motive for its improvement.

The first village reached after an hour's descent is *Vimine*, ingeniously conjectured by Beaumont to be derived from *Via Minima*, because it lay on the shortest route from Lemincum (Chambéry) to Vienna Allobrogum (Vienne, on the Rhone). In going to or from Chambéry by this route, instead of that by Les Échelles, the pedestrian will gain 2 hrs.; the whole distance from Pont Beauvoisin requiring about 8 hrs.

From the village of Vimine to the hamlet of Cognin is a short hour's walk over a bad road, but through beautiful scenes: thence, in half an hour, the traveller will reach

*Chambéry* (Ital. Ciamberi) (Inns: H. de France, near the rly. stat., pretty good and reasonable; le Petit Paris; H. de l'Europe; Poste, bad), once capital of Savoy, now chef lieu du Dépt. and an archbishop's see, containing about 20,000 Inhab., and pleasantly situated within a circle of

mountains. The streets are rather picturesque, and have an air of activity, although the population remains stationary, and the town contains little to interest the traveller. A peculiar silk gauze is made here.

The *Cathedral*, a Gothic building (14th century, finished 1430), curiously painted in imitation of the stone tracery of the 15th century, is neither large nor interesting.

By flights of sloped terraces you may ascend to the *Castle* of the Dukes of Savoy, an ancient fragment presenting a very picturesque and imposing appearance. It was burnt in 1798, only 3 of the towers, the chapel and the part next the town escaping. The chapel (b. 1415) is in the style of the Sainte Chapelle at Paris, and has some beautiful lancet windows and painted glass. The interior is painted in imitation of Flamboyant tracery. One side of the castle-yard is occupied by a singularly ugly modern building within which are the very simple apartments formerly occupied by the Sardinian Royal Family, now residence of the Préfet. The castle gardens, and terraces command fine views of the surrounding mountains.

Before the French revolution there were 20 convents in Chambéry: there are still seven, four of which are nunneries.

Among the most conspicuous buildings at present are the modern Palais de Justice, H. de Ville (1864), and *Three Barracks*.

There is a *Public Library* containing 13,000 volumes, an incipient museum, and a few pictures, none of them calculated to afford the stranger much gratification; there is also a *Theatre* and a *Royal College*.

St. Réal, author of the 'Conjuration contre Venise,' was born at Chambéry, 1639; and the Comte Xavier Maistre, author of the 'Voyage autour de ma Chambre,' is also a native. This town boasts among her citizens General de Boigne, who, having made an immense fortune in the East Indies, in the service of the Rajah of Siam, bestowed the greater portion of it to the amount of 8,417,850 fr., in be-

factions to his native place. He founded two hospitals, and set on foot many improvements. A street has been named after him, and a *monument*, consisting of a fountain ornamented with figures of elephants, has been erected to his memory on the Promenade on the way to the rly. He died 1830.

On a rock rising on rt. bank of the Leysse, a Roman site, stands the *Ch. of Lémene*, the oldest in the district. In the crypt is the body of an Irish bishop.

About 20 minutes' walk to the south of the town is *Les Charmettes*, the residence of Rousseau and of his friend Madame de Warens. There is nothing in the place at present worth notice independently of its connection with J. Jacques: the house has the appearance of a poor farm-house, and Rousseau's room was the one over the entrance.

Those who have time on their hands, and desire an agreeable two hours' walk, may visit the ravine called *Le Bout du Monde*. The road to it turns out of that to Turin at the end of the Faubourg de Montmeillan, follows the left bank of the Leysse by the side of the great dyke, as far as the village of Leysse, where it crosses the stream, and, passing on the right the picturesque castle of Chaffardon, enters the gorge of the Doriat, which is closed in on all sides by high cliffs, forming the base of the Dent de Nivolet, and has no outlet. Behind a paper-mill, built by one of the Montgolfiers, the stream falls in a pretty cascade over the wall of rock here formed of remarkable regular and thin horizontal strata, through some of which the water forcing its way forms singular supplementary jets at a distance from the main fall.

[A pleasant excursion of a day or two may be made from Chambéry to the baths of Aix, and the Lac du Bourget (Rte. 151.)]

The *Victor Emanuel Railroad*, to Turin by the Cenis, is open (Rte. 154); also those to Geneva, Lyons, Macon, and Paris. Diligences to Grenoble by Montmélian in 6 hrs.

## ROUTE 154.

### CHAMBERY TO TURIN—MONT CENIS.

	kil.	miles.
Chambéry (railway). (Rte 151.)		
Montmélian . . . . .	15 =	9
Aiguebelle . . . . .	37 =	23
St. Jean de Maurienne . . . . .	70 =	43
St. Jean to St. Michel . . . . .	13 =	8
<hr/>		
St. Michel to Modan (railway) . . . . .	17 =	10½
Modane to Verney . . . . .	11 =	7
Verney to Lanslebourg . . . . .	12 =	7½
Lanslebourg to Grande Croix . . . . .	13 =	8
Grande Croix to Molaret . . . . .	14 =	8½
Molaret to Susa . . . . .	10 =	6
<hr/>		
Susa to Turin (railway) . . . . .	54 =	34
Total .		214 132½

The Rly. to St. Michel takes from 2 to 3 hrs. Diligence about 10 hrs. from St. Michel to Susa. Susa Rly. to Turin, 2 hrs. Total, about 16 hrs., including stoppages. The diligences are usually so arranged as to cross the pass during the night: those, therefore, who wish to see it will take a *voiturier* or post from St. Michel to Susa in 2 days. The travelling is very good, but expensive. *Voiturier* about 200 fr., posting 300 fr., all renforts and tolls included. The best *voiturier* is Borgo, who has excellent carriages, and performs the journey in 10 hrs. His office is at the H. de la Poste. The *Inns* on the road are dear, bad, and dirty; St. Michel's are the best.

The Mont Cenis road may be considered as beginning at Chambéry and ending at Susa. It was constructed by the Chevalier Fabbioni, under the orders of Napoleon, at a cost of 300,000*l.*, and was commenced in 1803 and finished in 1810. It is one of the safest and most practicable of the roads over the Alps during the winter, but is at the same

time the least interesting. The valley of the Arc, however, is in some places pretty, and in others wild and grand, and there is a fine view from the 17th Refuge, and beautiful ones on the descent into Italy.

Now that the Rly. from Paris to St. Michel has been completed, this road has become by far the easiest mode of crossing the Alps into Italy.

#### *Chambéry* (Rte. 153).

The scenery in the valley above Chambéry is very fine. We pass, on the left, the castle of Bâtie, and farther on, close to the road, that of Chignin, links of a line of forts extending through the country, on whose towers watch-fires were lighted to alarm the inhabitants in time of war, in case of foreign inroads. For these rude means in the middle ages, telegraphs have been substituted. Up the valleys of the Arc and Isère, the chain of old castles continues almost without an interruption. The mountain seen on the rt. is the Mont Grenier, 5700 ft. high. The side facing Chambéry is a perpendicular escarpment, produced by an immense mass of the mountain having broken off in 1248: it overwhelmed the country at its base with ruin, and buried 16 villages. The marks of this catastrophe are still visible in the series of hillocks, now covered with vineyards, called Les Aymes de Myans. The Mont Grenier stands in the angle between the valley of Chambéry and that of Gresivaudan, which leads to Grenoble: it is traversed by the Isère. On the l. bank of the river, a few miles down, stand the ruins of the *Château Bayard*, the cradle of the illustrious knight "sans peur et sans reproche." (See HANDBOOK OF FRANCE.)

*Route de Grenoble* Stat. Here the Railroad to Grenoble branches off, following the valley of the Isère, which opens to the S.

*Montmélian* Stat. (Inn: H. des Voyageurs, not good.) This little town stands not far from the rt. bank of the Isère, at the junction of four roads: that of the Mont Cenis, issuing out of

the valley of the Maurienne; that from the Tarentaise and Little St. Bernard (Rte. 156); that from Grenoble along the beautiful valley of Gresivaudan; and that from Chambéry. The castle of Montmélian was long a bulwark of Savoy against France. Henry IV. while besieging it in 1600, was nearly killed by a cannon-shot from its walls which covered him with dirt, and made the king cross himself devoutly, upon which Sully remarked, that he was happy to see that his Majesty was so good a Catholic. It was bravely and skilfully defended for 18 months against Louis XIII. by Count Geoffrey Benso de Cavour, an ancestor of the great modern statesman of the name. The works were finally demolished by Louis XIV., who took place in 1705. A few scanty fragments of wall, crowning the rock above the town, are the only remains of the former bulwark of Savoy, and the key of its Alps.

A good white wine is grown near Montmélian.

Public conveyances to the Baths of Alevard, near which are some iron-mines.

The railroad for some miles from Montmélian commands, in clear weather, a fine view of Mont Blanc. The post-road follows the rt. bank of the Isère; the rly. is opposite one, on an embankment of several miles, having crossed the river on a fine bridge beyond Montmélian. Near the rly. on the l. bank is the village of *Coise*, with a mineral spring containing iodine, renowned as specific against goitre. Beyond it, on the rt. bank, is

*St. Pierre d'Albigny*, a neat little town with a good inn. The Isère hereabouts is enclosed by high embankments. The slopes around Montmélian and St. Pierre are celebrated for the wine they produce. An omnibus runs to the St. Pierre Stat. on the rly.

A little beyond St. Pierre is a remarkable feature in the scenery of the valley, the *Château de Miolans*. It is built on a mass of rock jutting out of the mountain side 800 or 900 ft. above the Isère, commanding extensive views of



and down the valley, and across into the valley of the Arc; for it is nearly opposite to the confluence of the Arc and the Isère. Ascent gradual to the platform, which on the top of the rock is extensive enough for the castle.

The château originally belonged to one of the most ancient families in Savoy, distinguished as early as the ninth cent; but the male line becoming extinct in 1523, the château was bought by Charles III., duke of Savoy, and converted into a state prison, which continued to be its appropriation until the events of the French revolution united Savoy to France, when the castle was dismantled.

3 m. farther on the l. bank is

*Chamousset Stat.* Diligences daily to Albertville, Moutiers, and St. Maurice. Here the rly. and high road leave the valley of the Isère, and enter that of the *Maurienne*. About 6 m. up the valley is

*Aiguebelle Stat.*, in a tolerably wide triangular plain. (*Inns*: Poste, Parfaite Union.) The country hereabouts is unhealthy from marshes which produce malaria. The Castle above the town, called *La Charbonnière*, was the birthplace of several counts of Savoy.

*St. Jean de Maurienne Stat.*; the town about 1½ m. on right (*Inns*: Europe, Poste, Voyageurs, all indifferent), capital of the province of *Maurienne* (3000 Inhab.), 1800 ft. above the sea, the original seat of the Dukes or Counts of Savoy. The cathedral is of the 15th cent., and contains some good wood-carving and a stone reliquary. The town contains nothing else worthy of notice. The vineyards around grow a wine of some repute. From hence there is a pass to Moutiers (Rte. 156) by the *Col de la Platière* in 10 hrs. A mule may be taken to the top. In the descent through the *Val de Nant-brun* there is a very fine view of Mont Blanc. For the passes into Dauphiné, see Rte. 158.

The rly. continues along the Arc, here a very rapid stream, as far as

*St. Michel Stat.* (*Inns*: H. de la *Samaritaine*, at the stat., clean beds; H. [*Switz.*])

de Poste, very fair; Buffet at the station).

*Diligences* await the express trains from Paris for Susa, a journey of 10 hrs. Families will do well to hire a carriage here. Borgo, at the Poste, is a respectable vetturino, and has the best carriages.

The road now crosses the river and enters a wild and beautiful gorge. About 9 m. above St. Michel, near to the town of Modane, is the commencement of the great *Tunnel* through the Alps, begun 1857 by the government of Turin. This great enterprise will carry a tunnel 7½ m. (12,200 mètres=13,472 yards) long, without a vertical shaft for ventilation, to come out near Bardonnèche on the Italian side. It is 4360 ft. above the sea, and 3480 ft. below the summit of Mont Cenis. Up to July last 7150 mètres have been cut, and 5050 remain. It is expected the whole will be completed early in 1870. The rock is cut by machines worked by compressed air, invented by MM. Gratone and Sommellier. They are each of 250-horse power, and act simultaneously on both sides of the mountain. The air is compressed by water-power; and the works above Modane, with the tubes conveying the compressed air, are on an immense scale. The machines easily penetrate the rock, not by drilling, but on the same principle that rocks are bored for blasting—that is to say, by the blows of a chisel that turns slightly on its axis between every blow. After the rock has been bored with many holes simultaneously, the machine is withdrawn, and the holes charged with powder and blasted. Thence the cavity is enlarged, and walled and arched in the usual way. The same compressed air that works the machines affords powerful ventilation to the tunnel. It also cools it by the heat necessarily absorbed during its escape from compression. It is commonly spoken of as a *Tunnel under the Mont Cenis*, but improperly so, as it lies about 16 m. from that pass. Nearly 2650 yards have



been opened on each side, nearly one-fifth of the whole length. [Three passes lead from Modane across the chain separating Savoy from Piedmont. The shortest and most direct, but rough track, fit only for pedestrians, is by the *Col de Fréjus*, leading in about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to Bardonnèche. This passes very nearly over the part of the chain which is traversed by the tunnel. Somewhat farther W. is the much easier pass of the *Col de la Roue*, frequently traversed with mules by the country people, and leading in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to Bardonnèche. Farther still towards the W. is a rather higher and rougher path, but practicable for mules, by the *Col de la Saume*. For travellers going direct to Bardonnèche this has no advantage, but it leads by a very easy pass—the *Echelles de Planpinet*—to Briançon in Dauphiné (Rte. 159). From the summit of the *Col de la Saume* a mountaineer will easily reach in 3 hrs. the summit of the *Mont Thabor*, 10,536 ft. in height, commanding a magnificent panoramic view of the western Alps. On the top is a stone pyramid marking one of the stations used 40 years ago in the measurement of an arc of parallel by the Sardinian engineers. The descent may be made to Modane, to St. Michel by Valmeinier, or to Bardonnèche.] Between St. Michel and Modane is laid the last scene of Sterne's 'Sentimental Journey.'

*Modane.* (Inn: Lion d'Or.)

The road ascends high above the Arc, and the gorge, in whose depths it flows, serves as a natural and tremendous fosse to *Fort l'Esseillon* or *Bramans*, built on the opposite height, and commanding with its many-mouthed batteries, rising tier above tier, the passage towards Italy. This fort presents a magnificent appearance of impregnability; but under the treaty for the annexation of Savoy to France, it is to be razed. A light bridge, spanning the black gorge which separates the fort from the road, is a striking object: it is called the *Pont du Diable*.

*Verney.* Near this, Horace Walpole

lost his lap-dog, which was carried off by a wolf pouncing down upon it from the forest.

At Termignon the path from the *Col de la Vanoise* (Rte. 157) joins our road. On leaving here the road and rly. are carried up a very steep ascent.

*Lanslebourg* (Inn: *Hôtel Royal*), a wretched village, full of cabarets, at the foot of the ascent of *Mont Cenis*, 4400 ft. above the level of the sea. From this point numerous excursions among the High Alps may be made, and, indifferent as the inn is, it seems excellent after those found among the mountains. Here in the winter the passengers by diligence are transferred to others on sledges, and carriages are put on *traineaux* to cross the snow. 14 men are often required, and 12 mules, to convey the diligence across. The diligences from Susa stop at Lanslebourg for an early breakfast.

After passing a large barrack, the road crosses the Arc, and ascends the mountain by easy and well-constructed zigzags. Extra horses are necessary to reach the summit; and it will take about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. for a carriage to mount from Lanslebourg to *Refuge No. 18*, at the top of the ascent. It is possible to walk up in a shorter time, abridging the zigzags, and following a path to which the traveller is guided by the poles for the electric telegraph.

Between Lanslebourg and Susa there are 23 houses of Refuge placed at intervals by the roadside, occupied by cantoniers. Each is numbered, beginning from the Italian side of the mountain. Near No. 22 avalanches sometimes fall: the dangerous spot may be passed in 3 or 4 minutes. No. 18 is called *La Ramasse*. Here sledges are kept; and in winter, when deep snow covers the inequalities on the sides of the mountain, travellers may descend in one of them to Lanslebourg in 10 minutes! The sledge is guided by a peasant, who places himself in front; and, from the experience gained in collecting (ramasse) and transporting wood in this manner, they are so skilful, that there is little or no risk in this extraordinary

mode of travelling. Perpendicular descent 600 mètres—1950 ft.

The 17th Refuge is the barrier of Savoy: here a toll is levied, to keep the road in repair. Soon after the highest point of the pass is reached, 6825 ft. above the sea-level; thence the road descends to the plain of Mont Cenis, passing near the margin of a small lake, which is generally frozen during 6 months of the year: it is famed for its delicious trout: the fishery belongs to the monks of the Hospice.

*Inns:* Posthouse of the *Mont Cenis* (Monte Cenisio); and the Old Posthouse, rough, but tolerable, good headquarters for Alpine excursions. Passing travellers may regale on the excellent trout of the lake, and sometimes on ptarmigan, for which they will, however, pay handsomely. [From the posthouse the ascent of the Little Mont Cenis (Rte. 155) commences.]

About half a mile beyond the Post is the *Hospice*, originally founded by Charlemagne, who crossed the Mont Cenis with an army in the 9th century. The existing edifice, built by Napoleon, is now occupied, half by a corps of gendarmes, the other half by monks of the Benedictine order, who exercise gratuitous hospitality towards poor travellers. The house contains two or three tolerable bed-rooms for guests of the higher class. Near the Hospice is a loopholed wall, for the defence of the pass.

The road is tolerably level to *La Grande Croix*, a wretched *Inn* at the lower extremity of the plain, with one or two taverns occupied by carters and muleteers; here the descent begins. The road, as originally constructed, wound along the sides of the mountain; but, owing to its fearful exposure to avalanches, this portion has been abandoned, and a new line descends by winding zigzags to the plain of St. Nicolas, over which it is carried on a raised causeway, quite out of the reach of avalanches, except between the 3rd and 4th Refuges, where they still sometimes fall in spring. A gallery cut in the rock where the old road passed on rt., is

now abandoned: it exhibits a singular scene of confusion, the roof having partly fallen in. On issuing from this plain, a magnificent mountain on the l. is seen—the *Rochemelon*: on its summit is the chapel of Nôtre Dame des Neiges, which is visited on the 6th of August every year by a great number of pilgrims. Men, women, and children ascend on the day before, about three-quarters of the distance, sleep out on the mountain, and complete the ascent early on the following morning, so as to hear morning mass upon the summit! Saussure has given an interesting account of his ascent of this peak. Very few travellers have visited it since his time. The road now skirts a dreary ravine, at the bottom of which are seen the villages of *Ferrière* and *Novalèse*, deserted in the summer: the old mule-road passed through them.

*Molaret*, the first Italian hamlet. A footpath descends from the high road a little below the posthouse, much shortening the distance for pedestrians bound for Susa. From some of the turns in the zigzags beyond this place fine views of the valley of the Dora towards Turin are obtained, but the sides of the mountain are unusually barren. A gallery is passed, built under a torrent, and only used when the main-road is dangerous or destroyed by the torrent. The descent is now continuous by long zigzags to Susa.

*Railway from St. Michel to Susa, OVER the Mont Cenis.*

St. Michel to	Kil.	Eng. m.
Modane . . . . .	17	= 10
Bramans . . . . .	27	= 10
Termignon . . . . .	35	= 17½
Lanslebourg . . . . .	41	= 25½
Mont Cenis Hospice . . . . .	58	= 36
St. Martin . . . . .	69	= 42½
Susa . . . . .	79	= 49

Trains in about 5 hrs. The line following parallel to, in general occupying a portion of the width of the post-road, so that the description of

the one applies to the other as regards scenery, &c.

This rly., just opened for passenger traffic, is one of the most extraordinary efforts of engineering science in recent times. It has been entirely executed by British engineers and with English capital, and affords a most safe and convenient mode of crossing the central chain of the Alps. It has been constructed by Mr. Fell, on an entirely new principle—the *Central Rail* one—first employed by him and Mr. Brassey on the Cramford and High Fell line in England. As in the greater part of its extent the gradients are very rapid—in some places as great as 1 in 13, and hence the necessity of large traction-power, in addition to the ordinary rails on which move the perpendicular wheels—an additional or central rail has been introduced, on which act horizontal wheels, by which the rolling power is greatly augmented; whilst, aided by the higher level of the rail, these horizontal wheels afford the means of applying a well-arranged pressure, under the control of the engine, producing all the effects of a powerful brake-power when necessary. The reports of very celebrated engineers deputed by the different Governments have reported most favourably on the solidity and safety of Mr. Fell's system—none more so than Capt. Tyler, R.E., in his report to the Board of Trade, who says: "This scheme for crossing the Mont Cenis is, in my opinion, not only practicable . . . . with greater speed, certainty, and convenience, but also with greater safety than under the present arrangements."

The line commences at St. Michel, where that from Paris and Chambéry terminates, and extends to Susa, where the Italian rlys. commence. Of the entire distance—49 m.—the gradients on 36 are of 1 in 15; hence on this extent the central rail system is indispensable. Upon the remaining distance the ordinary mode of progression will alone be necessary. The gauge is narrower than on the ordinary nar-

row-gauge lines in England and France.

*Susa.* (*Inns:* H. de France, the best improved since it has passed into new hands; La Posta; Hôtel de Savoie. This town of 3500 Inhab., planted at the point of junction of the roads <sup>over</sup> the Mont Genève (Rte. 160) and the Mont Cenis, is chiefly remarkable on account of its antiquity, having been founded by a Roman colony in the reign of Augustus, under the name of Segusio. It appears, like most Italian towns, to have decayed, but it now seems reviving. There is a very curious Romanesque church and cloisters, and a gateway adjoining the church. There is also a Roman triumphal arch, of the Corinthian order, erected about 8 B.C., in honour of Augustus. It is in a sadly-neglected condition, and stands a little way outside the town, in what was formerly the governor's garden. Susa and the rest of the route to Turin are described in the *HANDBOOK FOR NORTH ITALY*.

The railway is now open from Susa with trains for Turin several times a-day, performing the journey in less than 2 hrs.

*TURIN Terminus.* (*Inns:* Hôtel de l'Europe and Hôtel Feder, the best both excellent; Hôtel de la Ligurie near the Rlwy. Stat., good.)—Omnibuses run to the different hotels at the arrival of each train.

For *TURIN*, see the *HANDBOOK FOR NORTH ITALY*.

## ROUTE 155.

MONT CENIS TO SUSA, BY THE *LITTLE MONT CENIS* AND THE *COLLE DE CLAIRÉE*.

Those who would make an excursion by the *Little Mont Cenis*, a singularly wild route, instead of descend-

ing by the road or rail from the Hospice to Susa, may accomplish it in 9 hrs. Turin may be reached the same day by a late train from Susa.

None but a practised mountaineer should attempt this very interesting route, as the path along the water-course traversing the face of the precipices above the Val de Clairée is not adapted for those who have weak heads. Take provisions. The posthouse of the Mont Cenis (Rte. 154) is left by a path which descends directly to the lake, then, skirting its upper border and across the meadows, it soon ascends rapidly towards the pasturages which lead to the châteaux of the Little Mont Cenis, which are distant from the posthouse 2 hrs. The mountain slopes around the plain of the Mont Cenis offer some of the richest pasturages in the Alps; those which lead to the Little Mont Cenis are of great extent.

A very little way beyond the châteaux of the *Little Mont Cenis* the col is attained, and the valley which descends to Bramans, in the valley of the Arc, and which lies at right angles with the path across the col, is seen through a great part of its length. On the opposite side of this valley rises the peak of the Grand Vallon; and a little on the left, from a deep turn in the valley below, called the Combe d'Ambin, rises one of the finest peaks in this part of the Alps, the Mont d'Ambin: on its summit is one of the stations used in the triangulation and measure of an arc of the meridian across the great chain. The entire crest of the Ambin is covered with glaciers, and every crue is traced by a white bed of snow that rests within it. At the lower extremity of the valley of Bramante the mountains of the Vanoise close the view.

To ascend this valley it is necessary to mount from the col of the Little Mont Cenis directly up some rocks, and continue for a short time on that side of the mountain; the path afterwards descends among vast rocks which strew this sterile-looking valley; and, keeping always on the

right of the ravine below, which forms the Combe d'Ambin, through which a stream, like a thread of silver, flows, the path ascends up a rugged and broken course until it reaches the châteaux of *Savines*. Here there is a little spot of meadow land, and some scanty herbage on the slopes of the valley. On the left, a rugged path leads across from the posthouse on the Cenis by some little lakes in the mountains of Bard, to this valley, above the châteaux of Savines: it is rather shorter, but more fatiguing, than that by the Little Mont Cenis. Wolves are not uncommon in the forest of Bramante, lower down the valley; the dogs kept at the châteaux of Savines are of great power, having their necks armed with spiked collars. The wolves here are probably the successors of those ravenous rascals that gobbled up Walpole's poor little dog Toby, as his master passed with the poet Gray at the foot of this forest on his way into Italy.

Above the meadows of Savines, the path rises amidst rocks and stones, and at length reaches a little lake in an elevated plain, in which all seems desolate, solitary, and sterile. The black precipices of the mountain of Bard on the left hand and those of the Mont d'Ambin on the right, bound its sides: from the Ambin glaciers sweep down to the lake, and small cataracts, from the melting of the ice on either side, mark their courses by light lines that stream down the precipices, and make their dark masses still blacker. Amidst this apparent sterility thousands of gentianellas, ranunculus glacialis, violets of the richest fragrance, and a hundred other Alpine flowers, grow and bloom unseen, in every swampy spot, and between the stones with which the plain and col are covered.

This lake is filled by the meltings of the glaciers of the Mont d'Ambin. It is called the Lac Blanc, or Lac de Savines: it is about 1 m. long. At its upper extremity is a low ridge certainly not a hundred feet above the level of the lake. This is a crest of the

great chain, the *Col de Clairée*, also called *Col du Clapier*; across it two paths lie—that on the rt., by a wild and difficult course, leads over the *Col de Touilles* to Salabertrand, in the Val d'Exilles.

The route to Susa lies on the left: by it the descent from the Col de Clairée is down a steep and rocky hollow, which terminates at the crossing of a bright stream near a pasturage. This spot, where wine may be cooled in the stream, is a delicious place of rest. At the first moment it is not easy to see how the descent is to be effected. The traveller stands upon a platform, seemingly surrounded by precipitous rocks; and there will be little disposition immediately to seek a path, for from this spot one of the most interesting views in the Alps is presented. Immediately below is the deep basin and narrow valley of the Clairée, which is almost always filled with vapour that seems to boil as in a caldron; when the clouds from it rise high enough to catch the current of air, they disperse.

Beyond this valley, the mountain above Chaumont, in the Val d'Exilles, bounds the view; but, turning towards the left, the Combe of Susa is seen over the intervening mountains, even to its termination in the plains of Piedmont, stretching away to the horizon far beyond the hill of the Superga.

On the rt. are the steep rocks, which must be climbed by those who would go from the Col de Clairée to the Col de Touilles. Though long and extremely steep, the descent will present no real difficulty to a practised cragsman; but none other should attempt it without a guide. In looking back when the head of the *Val de Clairée* has been reached, it is not easy to trace the line of descent over rocks that in places seem quite perpendicular.

"The pass of the Clairée is, on the Italian side, the steepest that I have ever traversed. This was one of the many difficult passes by which the Vaudois, in 1687, under their

pastor and captain, Henri Arnaud, returned to their valleys. They had, after entering Savoy, wandered by a course rather difficult to trace, until they had crossed the Col de Bonhomme, whence they descended into the Tarentaise, traversed the Mont Iseran into the valley of the Ar; thence by the Mont Cenis, the Little Mont Cenis, and the Col de Clairée, into the valley of the Clairée. Here they encountered the troops of the Grand Duke of Savoy, who prevented their entry into the valley of Exilles by the Clairée, and they were compelled to return and cross the Col de Touilles, from which the southern branch of the Clairée, called the Cisaure, flows. The account of their sufferings, before they cleared these mountain passes, and so signally defeated their enemies at the bridge of Salabertrand, forms a part of one of the most interesting narratives ever published; it was written by Henri Arnaud himself, their colonel and pastor.\*

"The recollection of their perilous adventures," says the author of 'Excursions in the Alps,' "was vividly recalled whilst sitting on a spot which they also had visited, resting ourselves from a fatiguing descent which they had encountered, and in sight of the savage mountain of Les Touilles, by which they were compelled to retreat and encounter yet further danger. The few miserable huts near us were uninhabited, and neither afforded shelter nor food. Continuing our route, we kept close to the torrent from which a large stream was separated for irrigation. By the side of the channel of this stream we continued some way; then the road sank below it; afterwards we ascended rapidly by a steep path cut out at the foot of precipices, which rose in a broken grandeur directly over us.

"Along the face of these rocks is

\* It was translated by the late Hugh Dr. Acland, from a rare copy, under the title 'The Glorious Recovery by the Vaudois of their Valleys.' The best account of the Vaudois is to be found in the works of the Rev. D. Gilly.

channel for the watercourse was cut ; and though, at our greatest elevation above the valley of Clairée, we were at least a thousand feet higher than the natural bed of the torrent, we were still below the head of the artificial channel whence its waters flowed rapidly towards us. It was difficult to believe the fact before our eyes ; and, as we looked back into the short, deep, narrow valley that we had left, and whilst we saw the Clairée foaming down its course, the aqueduct seemed to *ascend* steeply from the valley. This water is led round the brow of the mountain to irrigate the meadows above Jaillon. From the highest point of our passage the view up the valley of the Doire to Exilles was very fine ; and immediately after passing this point, the Combe of Susa opened to us from between the Roche Melon and the Col de Fenêtre, to the plains beyond Turin. We soon fell into the high road from the Mont Cenis ; and about 7 o'clock reached the Hôtel de la Poste at

*Susa Station (Rte. 154)."*

It is possible to follow the water-course from the point where it diverges from the Clairée, along the face of the precipice, and joining the road of the Mont Cenis 1 hr. above Susa, thereby saving some time. A steady head is necessary.

### ROUTE 156.

CHAMBÉRY TO LANSLEBOURG, BY THE  
TARENTAISE—COL D'ISERAN—COL DE  
LA LEISSE.

Chambéry to Lanslebourg, 122 m.

	Kil.	Eng. m.
Chambéry.		
Montmélian (Rail).	15	= 9
Chamousset	13	= 8
Albertville . . .	23	= 14½
Moutiers . . .	28	= 17½
Aime . . .	16	= 10
Bourg St. Maurice .	14	= 8½

	Leagues.
Ste. Foi . . . . .	2½
Tignes . . . . .	3½
Laval . . . . .	1½
Bonneval . . . . .	4½
Lanslebourg . . . . .	4

Railway to Chamousset Stat. (Rte.

154), from whence diligences run to Moutiers in about 6 hrs.

The road crosses the Isère close to the station, and then goes up the valley on the dyke which has been formed to retain the river. The mountains on each side slope upwards gradually and irregularly, so as to afford views of the higher villages and pastures, and occasionally of the summits. The road itself is very straight, bare, level, and dusty, until it reaches

*Albertville* (described in Rte. 150).

Here our road takes a sharp turn to the S., following the course of the Isère, and entering the lovely district distinguished as the *Tarentaise*. The road lies on the rt. bank of the Isère, through a succession of beautiful scenes. The lower ranges of the mountains are richly wooded, the valley narrow, retired, and pastoral in its character. The ruins of *Castles* are often seen, on heights that jut out on rocks in commanding situations from the rich backgrounds of forest trees; and the road itself winds through pleasant shades overhung by walnut or chestnut trees.

Immediately after leaving Albertville the river Arly is crossed, and then the old town of *Conflans* (see Rte. 150) is seen on a rock to the l. The next village is *La Batie* (*Oblimum*), with a ruined castle, and the next of any importance is *Roche-Cavins*, which is about half-way between Conflans and Moutiers. About 10 miles from Conflans, near the hamlet of Petit Cœur (celebrated amongst geologists for the mixture of fossils of the coal measures and lias in its rocks), there is a fine cataract, which dashes down amidst immense rocks,—a spot forming a striking contrast to the general fertility and repose of the valley. About 3 m. farther the valley opens into a rich little plain, where the pretty village of *Aigueblanche* is situated. Here the road rises for some distance, in order to avoid the deep gorge through which the Isère passes, and then descends again to

*Moutiers Tarentaise* (Inn; Couronne,



improved, good cuisine, civil landlord—keeps carriage, but only 2-horse; the innkeepers in the Tarentaise, and in many other parts of Savoy, are well-disposed to prey upon strangers) is situated on the confluence of the Isère and the Doron or Bozel. Inhab. 2000. This capital of the Tarentaise derives its present name from an old monastery, which was built in the 5th cent. at a little distance from the ancient *Darentasia*. The history of its church is perfect from its first archbishopric in 420 to its last in 1793, a period of 1373 years. The city now contains an hospital for the poor, which was founded in the 10th century, and an *Ecole des Mines*, with a laboratory for practical examination of the productions of the mines of Pesey.

The *Salt-works*, now the distinguishing feature of Moutiers, produce nearly 1500 tons of salt yearly, extracted from three springs rising at the base of a vast mass of limestone, in the deep ravine of the Doron, about a mile above its junction with the Isère. They are warm, and the strongest 99° Fahrenheit. During the great earthquake of Lisbon, the salines of Moutiers ceased to flow for 48 hours: when the reflux took place the quantity was increased, but the saline impregnation was weaker. The brine has scarcely half the strength of that of sea-water; yet it is worked to some profit by the simplicity of the process, and the use of water as the motive power for the pumps. There are 3 great evaporating-houses filled with faggots of black-thorn. The water from the springs is pumped to the top of these, and allowed to pass through perforated canals, slowly dropping through the woodstacks and spreading over the extensive surface of the branches. By this process the sulphate of lime attaches itself to the wood, and a large part of the watery particles evaporate, so that the proportion of salt after each operation is nearly doubled. After passing through 3 sets of faggots the brine is passed through a house of ropes, down which the brine trickles,

When the brine has gone through the 4 stages, and acquired the strength of 20 per cent., it is conducted into boiling pans, and the salt is crystallised in the usual manner.

By this system of evaporation by the air, only one sixteenth of the fuel is consumed which would be required for evaporating the weak brine as it comes from the springs. The faggots are changed once in 5 or 6 years: they acquire a coating of selenite which when broken off, resembles the stems and branches of encrinites. The works belong to the government, and produce about 6000 quintals of salt annually. The whole is readily shown for a small fee.

The diligence from Moutiers to Bourg starts at 3.30 a.m., and it is not easy to get any other conveyance.

The road, leaving the little basin of Moutiers to ascend the Isère, goes through some thoroughly Swiss pastoral scenery, and then passes through a gorge which opens at the village of *St. Marcel*. The scenery around is very fine and picturesque, but the inhabitants present the filthy and decrepit appearance which is too common in these regions. The road, which formerly passed on the left bank of the Isère, now rises high on the right bank, and is carried over a neck of rock at a great height above the torrent. The view looking down and back upon *St. Marcel* from the rock is very fine. This road was made by Victor Emanuel, Duke of Savoy, in 1766.

The valley opens above this defile and immediately beyond it, below the road, is seen the village of *Centron*, still preserving the name of the *Centrones*, an Alpine people who inhabited this valley.

*Aime* (*Axuma*), one of the chief towns of the *Centrones*, which, according to inscriptions found there, was called *Forum Claudii* before the name of *Axuma* was given to it. On a hill above it there are the remains of Roman fortifications, some round towers of great antiquity, both in the town and on the site of the ancient fort, are still standing, the



masonry having been strong enough to hold together through so many ages. On the lower side of the town is a very curious crypt of great antiquity, containing a Roman tomb or altar. Above it is the comparatively modern ruined chapel of an ex-convent, in the walls of which are stones bearing Roman inscriptions, one in honour of Trajan. From the crypt it is said that the commencement of a subterraneous passage was traced for some distance. The village was overwhelmed by a landslip in the 13th cent., and it is not improbable that the present crypt was previously on the level of the ground. Below the old convent are the remains of a castle, which, though poor and barbarous enough, was the residence of a powerful family. It is related that a member of this family, being defeated in a lawsuit, requested time to produce further evidence in his favour. Soon afterwards he caught one of the judges, and sent his head to the other judges, as the further evidence. [About an hour's walk from Aime, on the mountains to the S., are the lead-mines of *Macot*.]

The valley above Aime, though fine, is not so picturesque as below; and the road, though still a diligence-road, is not so good.

The vine grows as far as the village of Bellentre, which is nearly opposite to the village and valley of Landri, that lead to the mines of *Pesey*, which, with those of *Macot*, are the most celebrated in Savoy. They are situated near the foot of the glacier of the *Mont Pourri*, and more than 5000 ft. above the level of the sea: the ore is a fine-grained sulphuret of lead; it contains about 60 ounces of silver per ton. These mines in 1785 yielded annually about 4000 marks of silver, and 40,000 quintals of lead: they are now less productive. The height of the mines is a serious obstacle to their being worked to great advantage.

Up the valley of *Pesey* a fine view is obtained of the glaciers and snows of the *Mont Pourri*, sometimes called *Chaffe-Quarre*.

As the valley is ascended, the pass of the Little St. Bernard (Rte. 149) opens to the observer a more obvious course than that of the road up the *Isère*, which turns again from St. Maurice to the E. and S.S.E., and continues in this direction to its source.

*Bourg St. Maurice* (Berigentrum).  
*Inn*: H. des Voyageurs, tolerable. (Rte. 149.)

Thus far up the *Val Isère* there is a diligence road, but beyond St. Maurice it is necessary, in order to explore the valley upwards, to go on horseback or on foot, until the road now in progress is complete. It requires one day to go from Bourg St. Maurice to *La Val*, and another across the *Col d'Iseran* to *Lanslebourg* and the *Mont Cenis*. The *Inns* above this are bad and extortionate.

From Bourg St. Maurice to *Ste. Foi* (see Rte. 148), 3 hrs. The approach to *Ste. Foi* from the meadows below it offers one of the most beautiful scenes in the valleys of the Alps. Having climbed the tortuous and difficult *chaussée* which leads to the village, the route continues for a long way by a wild and lofty path on the mountain side, high above the torrent, through the village of

*La Tuille de Ste. Foi*, where a good guide and sportsman, *François Ruet*, resides. He can accommodate two or three travellers, and can furnish trout from the *Lac de Tignes*. The *Inns* at *La Tuille* are bad, but *Ruet* is honest and trustworthy. Bears and chamois occur here.

[From *La Tuille de Sainte Foi*, or *Tignes*, an interesting excursion may be made to a peak called *La Croix de Feuillette*, one of the minor peaks of the *Ormelune*, the highest point in the range between the *Col du Mont* and the *Col du Clou*. It commands a magnificent view of the chain of *Mont Blanc* and of a great portion of the *Savoy Alps*. It is possible on the same day to ascend to the summit of the *Col du Clou*, a pass communicating with the *Val Grisenche* and *Ivrogne* in the *Val d'Aosta* (Rte. 148). The scenery towards the summit of the *Col* is wild and striking, but there is

no extensive view. The descent into the Val Grisanche from the highest point (which must be near 9000 ft. above the sea) lies over steep slopes of snow and débris. This would be the most direct course from Lanslebourg to Aosta (see Rte. 148). The path taken in returning from the Col to La Tuille is very interesting, lying through varied and striking scenery.]

The deep ravine is too narrow to allow the path to run near to the torrent. On the opposite side the glaciers that stretch from the Chaffre-Quarre along the crest of the mountains, offer a scene of grandeur scarcely to be surpassed in the Western Alps. The finest view is, perhaps, opposite the village of *La Gure*, which seems to be overhung by the glacier above it. More than once this village has been destroyed by the fall of ice and rocks; but the danger is defied for the sake of the little land which its terrace above the Isère affords. From the melting glaciers above, the white lines of many falls seem to stream down upon the village.

Soon after passing *La Gure* the road ascends to a ridge, which being crossed, the path leads steeply down to the Isère in the depth of the ravine. Here overhanging rocks darken the pass, and a fragile bridge, in a wild situation over a lateral stream, enables the traveller to ascend the valley. A little beyond this bridge the defile opens into the plain and village of

*Brevières*. Here the Isère is crossed, and the path ascends on the other side through a rugged pine forest, where the path is carried very high to avoid a ravine. In passing over this ridge, there is one spot where a cleft in the mountain side can be passed only upon the trees, rocks, and stones, which the peasants have jammed into it, to form a path, which thence descending almost to the river side, continues a short way only, before another expansion of the valley forms a little well-cultivated plain, in which lies the chief village of the valley,—

*Tignes* (3½ hrs. from Ste. Foi). There is a small and dirty *Inn*, kept by

*Florentin Révial*. The charges for very poor accommodation and bad food are equal to those of a regular hotel. The approach to it, issuing from the defile below, is very striking. The inhabitants are robust and independent, and are great breeders of mules and cattle. This mountain village is beautifully situated, about 5500 ft. above the sea, at the foot of the *Aiguille de la Sassièrè*, the highest point in the main chain of the Alps between Mont Blanc and Monte Viso. The summit was reached by Mr. W. Mathews in 1860, and is said to command a magnificent view of the western portion of the Alpine chain. From *Tignes* there is a pass called the *Col de Rhêmes*, or *Col de Gubère*, leading by the Val de Rhêmes to the Val d'Aosta. There are two passes leading to Lanslebourg and the Maurienne; the most frequented is that by the Col d'Iseran. Another more interesting, and rather shorter, but higher and more laborious, is called the *Col de la Leisse*.

[A rough bridle-road mounts from near the village of *Tignes* to the Lac de *Tignes*. Thence, keeping to the rt. of the lake, a faintly-marked path, after skirting its shores for some distance, ascends towards the S.W., and without much difficulty leads to the wild nearly level tract of snow-fields and débris which form the col (about 9200 ft.). Chamois are here frequent. The descent lies through a wild and dreary glen filled on either side by masses of débris, over which to the N. hangs a magnificent peak, called *La Grande Motte*. There is no path, but it will be better to keep first to the rt. side of the valley, then to cross the stream over some of the stone bridges which subsist through the summer, returning again to the north side (though out of the direct course, if the traveller seek some rest or refreshment at *Entre-deux-Eaux*, 6 hrs. from *Tignes*). Thence the road to Lanslebourg lies over the *Plan de Loup*, as described Rte. 157. A guide is required for this route.]

In taking the route up the valley of the Isère, here called *Val de Tignes*,

from Tignes to the Col d'Iseran, a steep rugged path leads up the mountain side, to pass another of those ravines, which in this valley so singularly alternate with the little plains.

This, the last, separates the plain of Tignes from that of Laval. The forest trees, from their greater elevation, are more stunted, the rocks more denuded, and the whole passage between the two villages is unmatched in savage wildness. In the midst, a fragile bridge crosses the torrent, and soon after the traveller finds himself in the plain of Laval; where barley is raised, and where irrigation is so well managed, that there is an appearance of luxuriant vegetation.

*Laval* is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. above Tignes, and is the highest church village in the Val Isère: it is surrounded by lofty mountains, which are crested with snow and glaciers. At the head of the valley, the Col de Galese can easily be seen. (Rte. 147.)

A miserable hovel called an inn is the only place of reception at *Laval*. From Tignes to Lanslebourg is a day's journey of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. If, however, the traveller intend to cross the Galese to the Val d'Orca in Piedmont, he cannot sleep too near the glaciers, in order to pass them at an early hour. *Laval* should in this case be his resting place. It is centrally placed in a noble country, and only wants a better inn. Besides the Col d'Iseran, there are 3 passes leading from *Laval*. 1. A path to the W., joining that from Tignes to the Col de la Leisse, near the summit of the pass. 2. By the Col de Rhêmes to Aosta, shorter but higher than the Galese, and reputed more hazardous. This may be taken as conveniently from Tignes, with a variation in the ascent. 3. To Ceresol by the Col de Galese (Rte. 147). The two last are difficult.

To cross the *Col d'Iseran* (from *Laval* to Bonneval is a walk of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) the path ascends gradually from the valley, by a stunted pine forest. There is a hamlet called Forno, or *Fornel*, further up the valley on the route to the Galese, but this is avoided, and by the time the traveller arrives opposite to it

he has attained a great elevation. The path to the Col mounts in zigzags on the l. bank of the Isère, and may require a guide for some distance, as the course is confused by sheep-tracks leading to different pasturages, and the true path is only known by bearings: the ascent is easy. Some crosses mark the loss of life in these solitudes; in one instance by murder, in another a poor soldier was found dead from cold and exhaustion. Towards the summit the track is well marked by a line of stone pyramids, each of which has a niche that would afford some shelter in bad weather. The soil produces myriads of flowers, and of great variety. On looking back upon the ridge of the great chain the view is grand, but not so fine as from the Col de Galese, and during the descent on the other side. Here the traveller looks over a thousand peaks, whose black and scathed precipices appear to spring out of the sea of glaciers which extends from the Levanna (Rte. 147) to the Roche Melon (Rte. 154).

From the col, the course lies down the denuded slopes to an elevated pasturage, which narrows to a valley terminating in a defile above deep precipices, where a cataract falls across the path. From this ravine the descent is very rough and fatiguing down to the plain below, where the pasturages and châteaux of St. Barthelémi, belonging to the inhabitants of Bonneval, offer abundant summer resources to the herds and flocks of the proprietors.

From these pasturages the descent is still steep and wearying. The valley of the Arc is seen below, and on the left, looking up to the head of the valley, the glaciers of the Levanna seem to fill it.

The first village reached in the valley of the Arc is

*Bonneval*: Inn (kept by Culeta, an intelligent chasseur) is very moderate and homely, as are all those in the valley above Lanslebourg, distant 4 hrs. down the valley from Bonneval.

[Three difficult glacier passes lead from Bonneval into Italy. 1. By

the *Col de Carro* to Ceresol, see Rte. 147. 2. By the *Col de Girard*, passing immediately S. of the summit of the Levanna (which was reached by Mr. Cowell in 1860), leads in 6 hrs. to *Groscavallo*, and in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. farther to Lanzo in Piedmont. 3. A longer route lying for 3 hrs. over glacier, by the *Col de la Sea*, in 9 hrs. to *Groscavallo*.]

Nearly 2 hrs. below Bonneval is the village of *Bessans* (Inn bad and extortionate), just before reaching which a path turns off to the l. up the valley of *Averole*. [By the *Val d'Averole* several difficult passes lead into the Piedmontese valleys of *Ala* and *Viù*. 1. The *Col de Colarin*, leading to *Ala* in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs; from thence to *Lanzo* 3 hrs. 2. The *Col d'Arnaz*, a very ancient passage, with remains of a paved track, now partly covered with snow and ice, and some Roman inscriptions, leads in 9 hrs. from *Bessans* to *Viù*, and from thence, by char-road, in 2 hrs. to *Lanzo*. 3. A longer but easier route by the *Col du Lautaret*, sometimes traversed by mules, leads to *Viù* in 12 hrs.]

At *Bessans* the *Arc* is again crossed, and a high ridge is passed which divides that commune from

*Lans le Villard*, a village about a league above *Lanslebourg*. Its inhabitants salt their donkeys for food—a practice common in the *Tarentaise*. From *Lans le Villard* a path leads into the great route of the *Mont Cenis*. If the traveller have started early, he may reach the post-house on the mountain on the day of his departure from *Laval*.

*Lanslebourg* (Rte. 154.)

## ROUTE 157.

MOUTIERS TARENDAISE TO LANSLEBOURG, BY THE COL DE LA VANOISE.

A char may be taken as far as *Planay* for this journey, but beyond, it is necessary to take a horse, or proceed on foot. This pass may be performed in one long day,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. steady walking without halts.

The road passes by the *Salines* of *Moutiers* (Rte. 156), and ascending on the rt. bank of the *Doron*, reaches in a quarter of an hour the *Rock of Salins*, situated opposite to the confluence of the valley of *Bozel*, or the *Doron*, with that of *Belleville*. Ascending the latter, there are two mountain passes: one leads to *St. Jean Maurienne*, the other to *St. Michel*, both in the valley of the *Arc*, either an easy day's journey.

The *Château de Salins* was anciently the residence of the archbishop of the *Tarentaise*. Its ruins are situated immediately above the springs, in the valley below. These are guarded with great care, to prevent the people of the country stealing any of the water, and making their own salt!

*Salins* is conjectured to have been the site of the ancient *Darentasia*. The town was destroyed about the end of the 14th century, by a fall from the mountains on the W. This fall of rocks and stones so filled the valley that the lower town was buried beneath the mass. All that remained were the parts most elevated. Subsequent falls destroyed what remained except the castle, and this has been demolished. A few miserable houses rebuilt around the *Salines*, await a similar fate from the threatening appearance of the rocks above.

The castle, however, remained long after the destruction of the town in the 14th century. Books still exist which were printed by *Maurice Merminion* at the *château* very soon after the discovery of printing. It is supposed that the first press in *Savoie* was established there, and that *Merminion* was the *Caxton* of the *Tarentaise*.

*Salins* lies S. of *Moutiers*. From the confluence, the road into the valley of *Bozel* takes an easterly direction through a district rich in wine and highly cultivated, where there are many beautiful points of view.

*Brida* or *La Perrière*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from *Moutiers*. (Inns: *Etablissement des Bains*, best, and good; 2 tables-d'hôte daily, and a reading-room: there are

others.) This village and watering-place is resorted to in summer by invalids on account of its mineral springs. It affords by far the best head-quarters for a traveller wishing to explore this part of Savoy. The waters are so much impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen as to be perfectly detestable to the taste. The temperature of the water is, according to Dr. Socquet, 99½°.

The views are extremely fine, and the neighbourhood abounds in beautiful walks; one of the pleasantest is by a footpath through the wood, at a considerable height above the S. bank of the stream, towards Montiers.

From Brida carriage-roads lead by either bank of the Doron to Bozel, 1½ hr's. walk. Between the two villages the country is rich in cultivation: vines and fruit-trees in the valley, corn-fields and pasturages on the belts of the mountains, and above, pine-forests, surmounted by snows and glaciers, the valley being closed at the head by the mountains of Pesey, and, one of the most beautiful in form in the Alps, the Mont Pourri.

A short distance beyond Bozel the valley forks. The main branch of the Doron issues from the valley of Pralognan, while the other less considerable stream descends from the *Val de Premou* nearly due E. of Bozel. Half an hour above the point where the road turns S. to Pralognan is *Champagny*, at the opening of the *Val de Premou*. It takes about 5½ hrs. steady walking to reach a sort of plateau at the head of the valley, on which are several small lakes, of which that nearest the summit is called *Lac de Cracalery*. From this point, by turning first N., and then descending to the N.W., the traveller may reach the mines of Pesey (Rte. 156). The direct course to the rt. of the lake, a little N. of E., leads by the *Col de Palet* to Tignes. The lateral valleys of the Doron abound with beautiful scenery, and most of them lead to points of view in the mountains where some of the finest Alpine scenes are presented, particu-

larly in the valley of Allues, and at the châteaux of Châtelet, near the Col de Forclaz, whence Mont Blanc can be seen, and a vast extent of the peaks of the great chain.

The road to Pralognan passes the village of *Villard Goitreux*, built at the junction of the two branches of the Doron. A char may be taken as far as *Planay*; but no time will be saved, as the ascent by the road is steep, and the old track keeping nearer to the stream is more interesting. On the rt. there is a cataract, formed by the fall of the Doron into the gorge at Bellentre, and the valley widens to the beautiful meadows and calm retirement of the valley of Pralognan.

*Pralognan* has two small *Inns*: that of Marie Joseph Favre is probably the best, kept by civil people, and not very bad. As elsewhere in the adjoining valleys, there is much confusion as to the names of the mountains hereabouts. The name *Aiguille de la Vanoise* appears in many works, but does not appear to be known in the country. The pass leading to Lanslebourg is called *Col de Vanoise*, and the tract of glacier south of that pass is the *Glacier de Vanoise*. The highest peak in this part of Savoy lies N. of the Col de Vanoise, between Pralognan and the Val de Premou; it is called in the country the *Grande Casse*, but is probably the point which has been measured as the *Aiguille de Vanoise*. The height is at least 12,700 Eng. ft.

[Two passes lead from Pralognan to the valley of the Arc, more direct, but higher and more difficult, than the Col de Vanoise. Both passes are approached by following the valley of the Doron to the châteaux of La Motte. A little above this the valley divides; the l.-hand ravine leads in 6 hrs. by the *Col d'Aussois* over some considerable snow-fields to Aussois, near to Fort Lesseillon (Rte. 154). The scenery on both sides is very fine, and near the last châteaux on the N. side there is a magnificent view of Mont Blanc seen over all the intermediate ranges. The pass which lies

at the head of the rt.-hand or W. branch of the Doron is the *Col de Chevière*, or *Chavière*, leading directly to Modane. It is probably a very interesting pass, but information is required.]

The ascent from Pralognan to the Col de Vanoise is very wild and picturesque. In about an hour a green valley with a group of châteaux, called La Glière de Pralognan, is reached. A sharp pinnacle of rock is seen in the centre of the ridge in the direction of the pass. It is possible to pass on either side of this, but the regular track passes to the N. of it. The ascent is rough, in part over moraine, and the scenery wild and dreary. From the summit there is a fine view of the Grande Casse, ascended for the first time in 1860 by Mr. W. Mathews with two guides. The track on both sides of the col is marked by poles, and in good weather a mountaineer will scarcely require a guide. Near the top are 3 little lakes, the source of streams which descend on one side to the Doron, and on the other to the Arc. On the right, enormous glaciers are seen, which extend to the *Roche Chevière*, the mountain which is seen from the ascent to the Mont Cenis, over Termignon.

From the col, the descent towards the châteaux of Entre-deux-Eaux is rapid. The long sterile valley above these châteaux, which leads by the Col de la Leisse to Tignes, in the Val Isère (Rte. 156), is seen on the l. After a long descent the torrent is crossed, but, instead of pursuing its course through its deep gorge to Termignon, a path is followed which leads up on the opposite mountain to the *Plan du Loup*, a long pasturage, not so wild or high, but about the breadth of the Col de Vanoise. The scene, looking back upon the valley of Entre-deux-Eaux and the Col de Vanoise, is very sublime.

On the col of the Plan du Loup another small lake is passed, then a long descent commences, which leads down to the hamlet of St. Marguerite. Soon after the path enters a pine-forest, through which a rough road leads

down to the valley above Termignon, into which there are some magnificent peeps. There is still, however, a long and fatiguing descent to make before that little town can be reached in about 3 hrs. from Entre-deux-Eaux. There is a path which, going from the hamlet of St. Marguerite, skirts the Mts. Parouffa, behind Lanslebourg, and leads directly to the latter town; but, though shorter, it is even more fatiguing than the route to Termignon, and one which it is difficult to pass with a laden mule. At Termignon the path from the Vanoise falls into the great route of the Cenis, which in an hour takes the traveller to Lanslebourg (Rte. 154.)

## ROUTE 158.

FROM ST. JEAN DE MAURIENNE TO BOURG D'OYBANS, BY THE COL D'ARVES AND THE COL DU PRÉ NOUVEAU.

By starting very early from St. Jean it would be possible to reach Bourg the same day; but as it is a long journey of 14 leagues, it would be preferable to pass the night at St. Jean d'Arves, a small village situated in the Val d'Arvan which joins the valley of the Arc just above St. Jean de Maurienne. A steep mule-track leads from this town to the villages of Fontconvent and Villarambert, where the traveller turns to the left, and after a short descent crosses a small tributary of the Arvan, and then mounts some steep grassy slopes to the Col d'Arves, 3½ hrs. from St. Jean de Maurienne. In another ¼ hr. he descends to St. Jean d'Arves, where there is a rough Inn. The Col d'Arves might be avoided by following the course of the Arvan; but that stream makes a great détour between Fontconvent and St. Jean d'Arves. The road beyond leads nearly due S. over wide and luxuriant pastures to the old frontier between Savoy and France at the point called the Col du Pré Nouveau, 7500 ft. above the sea-level, and



4 hrs. from St. Jean d'Arves. It then descends through pastures, even more luxuriant than those of the Maurienne, by the side of a tributary of the Romanche; and after mounting the ridge on the l. bank of this river, comes down upon *Besse*, a miserable and filthy village about 2½ hrs. from the Col; and then passing through *Misoins*, hits the great road a little above *Frenet*, which is 1½ hr. from *Besse*, and where there is tolerable accommodation. From *Frenet* to *Bourg d'Oysans* is a 2 hrs'. walk. If, however, the traveller be bound for the *Val Cristophe*, it is better not to go to *Bourg*, but proceed at once from *Frenet* to *Venos* by the col of the same name, a journey of about 3 hrs. Almost all the way from *St. Jean de Maurienne* to *Venos* the mountains are composed of a black argillaceous shale, which doubtless produces the luxuriant vegetation. From the *Col du Pré Nouveau* another route may be taken into *Dauphiné* leading straight to *La Grave*.

## ROUTE 159.

GRENOBLE TO BRIANÇON, BY BOURG D'OYSANS AND THE COL DE LAUTARET.

114 kilom. = about 70 Eng. m.

*Grenoble* (*Gratianopolis*), the chief city in the *Dépt. de l'Isère*, an important place beautifully situated (Pop. 32,800), is described in the HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE. *Inns*: *H. de l'Europe*; *Trois Dauphins*. It is here only mentioned as the starting point for an excursion across the *Col de Lautaret* to the pass of the *Mont Genève*.

Courier every night to *Briançon* takes 4 or 5 passengers. Diligence during the summer to *Bourg* in 5 or 6 hrs., whence to *Briançon* takes 8 or 10 hrs. Conveyance very dear. Gre-

noble to *Susa* 220 fr. Car from *Bourg* to *Briançon*, 8 or 10 hrs., a long and heavy day, 50 fr. The pedestrian may walk from *Bourg* to *Briançon* in 13 hrs., and the scenery will amply repay him.

There is a good but very circuitous road from *Grenoble* by *Vizille*, *Gap*, and *Embrun* to *Briançon*, and a diligence goes that way to the latter town daily from *Grenoble*; but it is 50 m. further, and through a country that is generally uninteresting, whilst that by the *Col de Lautaret* abounds with some of the finest scenes in the Alps.

To save this distance, Napoleon commenced the construction of a new road by this pass, and many magnificent works were completed upon it, but after his abdication it was abandoned, and has only of late years been completed. The bridges were destroyed by the floods in May, 1856.

The road to the *Lautaret* lies for the most part through the valley of the *Romanche*. For some miles from *Grenoble* it lies across a level tract, through fine avenues to the village of *La Claix*, where there is a remarkable bridge over the *Drac*. The road to *Vizille* thence continues up the banks of the *Romanche* by a course nearly level.

*Vizille* has about 2000 Inhab. Its inns are wretched. It is considered as the cradle of the first French revolution, for here the parliament of *Dauphiny* first made a declaration fatal to the power of the *Bourbons*. Here is the *Château* of the constable *Lesdiguières*. It had, since the revolution, become the property of *M. Périer*, the brother of the minister, who had established cotton or flax works here; but it was partly destroyed by fire in 1825.

The road ascends by the right bank of the *Romanche* through a narrow, but beautiful and well-wooded valley, which runs with nearly the same wild character into the heart of the mountains for 6 or 7 leagues. In some places the valley widens enough for the establishment of a village or a hamlet: of these, *Chichilane*, *Gavet*, and *La Clavet* are the principal. Near



Gavet there are some iron-works. The Combe de Gavet, a remarkable ravine or Combe, which is also an English, or rather Celtic name for a defile, extends from the plain of Vizille to the plain of the Bourg d'Oysans, a fertile valley, surrounded by lofty mountains. It is within record that a large lake was formed in the 11th century by the falling of the neighbouring mountains at the entrance of the Combe de Gavet: this dammed the river, and the waters accumulated in the plain above, and formed a large lake, of which the surface was 3 leagues long, and 1 wide, and its depth from 60 to 80 ft. This lake existed for about 200 years. At length, in September, 1229, it burst its barrier, rushed into the Combe of Gavet, swept away in its fury everything that it touched, rapidly passed into the Drac, and hence into the Isère, then, flowing over the plain below the two rivers, submerged a great part of Grenoble. At the lower extremity of the plain of Bourg d'Oysans, a path across the mountains leads to the valley of Allemont, where there are iron works, but the readiest access to them is from the valley of Gresivaudan, above Grenoble. Very near Bourg d'Oysans a gold-mine is still worked.

*Bourg d'Oysans* (H. de Milan, indifferent) is situated on the l. bank of the river, and near the upper extremity of the plain. The vegetation of its valley is remarkably rich; the mountains that surround it exhibit in some places extraordinary instances of tortuous stratification. On approaching the Bourg, the Mont de Lens, streaming with glaciers, closes the head of the valley, and divides the torrent issuing from the dark gorges of the Vençon from that of the Romanche, which flows through the Combe of Malval.

By starting from this betimes an active pedestrian may reach Briançon before dark; the road being good, and nowhere steep, he will accomplish more than 3 m. an hour. In 5½ hrs. to La Grave. Thence to the Col de

Lautaret is 2½ hrs. walk, and 2½ hrs. more down to Monestier, and 3 hrs. thence to Briançon. The distance is easily accomplished in a char, changing at La Grave.

[An interesting excursion may be made from Bourg d'Oysans to La Bérarde, in the upper part of the valley of St. Christophe, about 8 hrs. walk from the Bourg. (See Rte. 170.)]

A little beyond the Bourg, the road twice crosses the Romanche, and ascends by its left bank; then quitting the plain, dives into the Gorge du Freney, and passes the first Tunnel. Mounting upwards again to descend to the level of the Romanche, we enter the *Gorge of the Infernets*. One of the grandest scenes on the road is in the vicinity of the second Tunnel. Just above it, near Freney, may be seen, though much defaced, the gateway, cut in the rock, through which passed the original Roman road. The ancient road—for this course from Briançon to Grenoble was known to the Romans—passed much higher, by the village of Mont Lens, 4200 ft. above the level of the sea.

Near the third gallery, the road rises up through a valley filled with rocks and blocks of enormous size that have fallen from the mountains above, and which are interspersed with a few trees and a scanty cultivation. In the midst of such a desert lies the hamlet of

*Le Dauphin*, 3½ leagues from Bourg d'Oysans: here refreshment may be had at the H. de l'Assurance. Above Le Dauphin, the savage and rocky character of the valley predominates; and the traveller enters the *Combe de Malval*, a nearly straight ravine of almost unequalled wildness, bounded by the precipitous bases of mountains thousands of feet in height, almost everywhere inaccessible, the top of Mont de Lens on the rt. absolute, so, and crowned by fields of ice and snow, which, owing to the height and abruptness of the defile, can only be seen and there be seen from below.

Numerous streams are crossed

which descend in falls from the glaciers that crest the precipices, and coming over the steep talus formed on the sides of the valley by the disintegration of the mountain, cross the road, and add to the fury of the Romanche. Not far from Le Daubhin, on the L., a magnificent cataract gushes out from the top of the precipice, and falls in a large volume into the valley below; this is called *le Saut de la Pucelle*. The universal story of a peasant-girl leaping down unhurt, to escape the violence of a bourseur, is told of this fall.

So vast are some of the blocks that strew the valley, that one among others measures 50 paces in length, and against several, stone huts and bâlets are raised and sheltered; for though there appear to be little herbage here, what there is is rich enough to induce those who have herds to send them here to pasturage.

Still further up the valley, near the cataract, on the L., are the lead-mines of Les Freaux, belonging to L. Marat de l'Ombre, where many workmen are employed to raise the ore and smelt it. The adits are seen high upon the precipitous sides of the mountains, and ropes and machinery extend into the valley below; these mines are said to be worked to advantage.

At the head of this savage valley the road rises to the miserable village of *La Grave* (Inn: Juge's, best on the road, though small, tolerable fare and beds).

The situation of *La Grave* is very fine, directly opposite to the Mont de Lens, the most northern peak of the range of Mont Pelvoux, which present a scene of the most striking grandeur. During the winter, the cold precludes the burying of the dead—the ground is too hard; the dead are therefore suspended in the ranges until the returning spring.

wretchedly are the people off for food, that dried cow-dung is chiefly used.

On leaving *La Grave* the road ascends to pass some rocks; then, turning, it leads abruptly to a turn in

the valley that overlooks a very fine fall of the Romanche, all its waters being poured into a deep abyss. The road passes 2 galleries before reaching

*Villars d'Arène*, a wretched village (Inn, bad and dear); but the new line avoids that village, and at once commences the ascent of the *Col de Lautaret*, crossing the mountain ridge that divides the valley of the Romanche from that of Monestier or the Guisanne. This pass rises to the height of about 6700 feet above the level of the sea; the col is covered with the most beautiful pasturage, and is one of the richest spots in the Dauphiné Alps for the harvest of the botanist.

On the summit, 2½ hrs. from *La Grave*, there is a *Maison Hospitalier*, one of those founded by Humbert II. in the 11th century; this is kept by a peasant appointed to the duty; but travellers are cautioned not to trust to getting fed there, though wine always, and bread and curds sometimes, may be found on the *Lautaret*.

The view from the col is very limited. To the S.W. several of the peaks of the Mont Pelvoux range are seen bristling with rocks, and clothed in glacier, ending, on the side of the Romanche, in the glacier of Tabuchet, whence this river has its source; on the other side, the river Guisanne is seen tumbling down the valley of Monestier.

From the summit of the col a very steep road descends into the sterile and miserable valley of the Guisanne, to the first hamlet, *La Madelaine*; still lower is the village of *Casset*, at the base of the glacier of *Lasciale*; and 2½ hrs. from the col are the

*Baths of Monestier*, 35 m. from *Bourg d'Oysans*: here there are several inns, much frequented during the season, of which the best, *Chez Armand*, affords very tolerable accommodation, superior to that of the valley of the Romanche.

The mineral waters here have a temperature of 101°, and are both drunk and employed in baths: they are so abundant that they are employed to turn a mill. Below

Monestier, the valley exhibits cultivation; barley is grown, and the meadows, by irrigations, are very productive; and, after the naked and sterile route from Le Dauphin to Monestier, the appearance of trees is hailed as giving the highest charm to the scenery.

The whole course of the Guisanne can be seen to Briançon, where the forts of this frontier town are visible, piled above each other; beyond is a chain of lofty mountains, over which is seen the peak of the Monte Viso; this is a magnificent scene.

There are several villages in the Val Monestier below the baths; the principal are La Salle, Chantemerle, so named from the number of black-birds that frequent it; and St. Chafrey. The approach to Briançon is strikingly fine, its walls and forts rising as they do to the highest, *l'Infernet*, which is placed on a peak, nearly 10,000 ft. above the level of the sea; the broad rich valley of the Durance below the town, and the mountain boundaries to the valley, make this one of the most picturesque towns and scenes in the Alps.

*Briançon*, 3 hours' walk from Monestier. (*Inn*: l'Ours, best;—H. de la Paix, very dirty.) This town is a frontier fortress, with gates and regular defences, and every strong position is occupied with a fort or battery; it guards the frontier of France by the pass of the Mont Genève and the valley of the Durance. A diligence goes daily to and from Embrun, and a diligence to Susa.

It is a city of high antiquity. Pliny attributed its foundation to the Greeks, who were chased from the borders of the lake of Como; others have given its foundation to Bellocus or Brennus. Ammianus Marcellinus calls it Virgantia Castellum. It held a Roman garrison. St. Ambrose was here on his way to Vienne in Dauphiné when he heard of the death of the Emperor Valens, whom he was going to baptize.

This little city is one of the smallest in France, having less than 3000 Inhab. The streets are narrow and

steep, but many of the houses are well built. It boasts of a Grand-Place: its church is not worth a visit.

The town itself is strong from its position and mural defences, but the seven forts which guard it render it almost impregnable. Between the city and some of these forts there is a bridge over the deep bed of the Durance, which foams beneath the precipices. The bridge is of bold construction, a single arch of 130 English feet span, and 180 feet above the current. It was built in 1730, under the direction of the Maréchal d'Asfeld.

See HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE.

## ROUTE 160.

### BRIANÇON TO SUSAS, BY THE PASS OF THE MONT GENÈVRE.

Diligence to Susa, but no post-horses. Distance 13 leagues, or 35 m.

On leaving Briançon for the Mont Genève, the valley of the Durance is ascended by a narrow gorge for more than a league, as far as La Vache, a little hamlet at the foot of the Mont Genève. Here, on the left, opens the *Val de Neuvache*, a large, and productive valley, a striking contrast to the valley of the Guisanne. It is also called the *Val des Prés*, from its rich meadows. The mountains are clothed with forest, through it the river Clairée, springing from the Glaciers of the Mont Tabor, flows for 8 leagues, and then loses its name in a less considerable torrent—the Durance, which scarcely runs 2 leagues from its source in the Mont Genève.

The ascent commences through the

pine forest, and by a series of admirably constructed zigzags leads the traveller up to the col, and presents at every turn a variety in the views of Briançon and its forts, the valleys of the Durance and Neuvache, and the surrounding mountains. these so much relieve the tedium of ascent that the summit is attained before the traveller has any idea that he has accomplished a distance of nearly 2 leagues. The old road continued by the pine forests up the l. bank of the stream, and pedestrians still pursue it, as it is much the shortest to attain the Col of the Mont Genève.

The plain of the *Mont Genève* is remarkable for the culture of barley on its summit, rather over 6000 ft. above the level of the sea, and there are fine pasturages on the slopes of the neighbouring mountains. On the plain there is a village called the

*Bourg Mont Genève*, 3 leagues from Briançon, which is inhabited all the year. Here is the custom-house, a troublesome place to those who enter *La belle France*.

On the plain, and almost from a common source, two rivers rise—the Durance, which flows into France and the Mediterranean, and the Dora-Susina or Dora Riparia, which flows into the Po and the Adriatic.

On the summit of the plain an obelisk was erected to commemorate the construction, in 1807, of this fine road over the Alps. It is 60 ft. high, and had on its pedestal inscriptions to record the event: these the Bourbons removed.

On leaving the Col of the Mont Genève, the course of the river is followed for 2 leagues down a series of tourniquets, made in the loose soil on the side of Mont Chaberton, until the road reaches the bed of the river and crosses it about 2 m. from Cesanne, near which village the torrent from the Mont Genève falls into the larger stream of the Ripa, descending from the lofty mountains that bound the Protestant Valleys of Piedmont.

*Cesanne*, where there are two miserable inns, is not more than 4 hours' good walk from Briançon.

Below Cesanne, the course lies down the valley to Susa. The first important commune in the valley is

*Oulx*, 3 leagues, a large village at the entrance to the valley of Bardonnèche, whence there are three passes to Modane, in the valley of the Arc: see Rte. 154. The tunnel under the Alps now in course of construction has one opening above Bardonnèche, a poor village 4255 ft. above the sea-level. A colony of workmen connected with the tunnel has been planted here, and houses and workshops built; but no good inn. Pedestrians may cross to Modane by the Col de Fréjus, or Col de la Roue.

From Oulx it is about 2 leagues to *Salabertrand*, a place memorable for the battle fought and won by the Vaudois, under Henri Arnaud, on their return to their valleys, after expatriation, in 1689, when they were opposed by 2500 regular entrenched troops, three times their numbers, and commanded by the Marquis de Larrey, who was wounded in the action: every spot around has interest in connection with that event: the mountain by which they had descended on the night of the battle; and that by the Col de Seu, which they crossed to go into their valleys after their victory.

Beyond Salabertrand the valley narrows considerably, and forms, a good league below, near the fort of Exilles, a deep defile; in the midst of this the fort is placed, perfectly commanding the valley; here the river is crossed, and the road thence continues on its rt. bank, beneath the heights of Chaumont—a spot rendered memorable by the fate of the Comte de Belleisle, who fell here on the 9th of July, 1747: his desperate valour, which had been excited by the promise of a *Bâton de Maréchal* of France if he succeeded in forcing the pass, was checked, after he had received many severe wounds, by a *coup de grace* from a grenadier of the regiment of Monferrat.

At the village of *Exilles* tolerable accommodation and much civility will

be found at the house of the post-master.

The valley, in and below the defile, is richly wooded, and preserves nearly the same character for 3 leagues, from Salabertrand to

*Susa* (Rte. 154), 22 m. from Cesanne.

## ROUTE 161.

### BRIANÇON TO PIGNEROL, BY THE COL DE SESTRIERES.

The inns between Briançon and Pignerol are poor, yet superior to those of Dauphiné. As far as Cesanne this is the same as the route last described.

It is 9 hrs. good walking from Cesanne to Perouse.

The road made by order of Napoleon, from Cesanne, to descend into Italy, is more direct than that by Turin. Though at first neglected by the Sardinian government, it is now in good order, and furnished with post-horses at Fenestrelles, 33 kilom. from Pignerol.

The road from Cesanne crosses the Doire, and the ascent to the col immediately commences, by a series of zig-zags like that of the descent from the Mont Genève; a lengthened snake-like course of each can be seen from the other across the valley of the Doire. It soon reaches the hamlet of *Champlas*, still continuing to ascend over fine pasturages, till it reaches

2½ hrs. The Col de *Sestrières* and chalets: the plain of the col is nearly 2 miles long. On the side towards the *Val Pragelas*, the view is wild and fine of the valley and the Mont Albergian. In descending, the road leads down by tourniquets to the

banks of the Clusone, and to the first village, *Sestrières*, 4 leagues from Cesanne, and thence to the village of

1½ hr. *Traverse*; the broad bed of the river beneath the dark pine forest opposite to *Pragelas*, a larger village below *Traverse*, gives rather an appearance of sterility to the valley. At *Traverse* there is a humble inn (La Rose Rouge—clean beds). The Clusone gives a general name to the whole valley, but among its inhabitants the upper part above the fort of *Fénestrelles* is called the *Val Pragelas*; below the fort it is often called the *Val de Perouse*.

2 hrs. 40 min. *Fénestrelles*, a village of 800 Inhab., with a bad and dirty Inn. The fort of *Fénestrelles* is a place of great strength, which guards the approach to Piedmont by this valley. It rises, from the defile formed by the base of the Mont Albergian, to the summit of the mountain, and commands the left bank of the torrent by its immense ranges of fortifications rising in terraces. The highest battery is accessible through a gallery that contains 3600 steps. On the summit is a basin covered with verdure, called the *Pré de Catinât*, from that general having encamped there.

These works have been in progress of construction by the Sardinian government since 1816. They succeeded an older fortress in 5 tiers of fortifications, blown up by the army of the French Republic. The 3 detached forts about a mile distant from the town, called *St. Charles*, *Trois Dents*, and *des Vallées*—command the approach. A 4th battery, called *Charles Albert*, sweeps the high road and closes the passage.

There are remains of old forts at the base of the Albergian, which were built by the French when this country belonged to them, in order to defend the pass in the opposite direction. The village of *Fénestrelles* lies in the middle of the defile below. The fort of *Fénestrelles* is used as a state prison. It is the scene of M. Saint-*Simon's* pretty tale of 'Picciola.'

[From *Fénestrelles* there is a very pretty Pass, by the Col de la Ferrière.]

in 5 hrs. to Susa in the valley of the Doire. From the top, which is carpeted with alpine flowers, is a magnificent view over the Doire, in which the Roche Melon mountain is a striking object for the last hour or two of rugged descent.]

From Fénestrelles to Pignerol there are 8 leagues, almost entirely through the valley of the Clusone. There is little variety in its scenery; it is generally narrow; but where there is cultivation, corn and wine abound. The mulberry for silkworms flourishes, and fruit and forest trees luxuriate, as they almost always do on the side of Piedmont. Formerly, this valley was filled with a Protestant community, but their living in it was long prohibited. The Vaudois churches were not permitted out of the valleys of Rora, La Tour (known also as the valley of Lucerna and the Val Pelice), St. Martin, and Angrogna; but the more liberal policy of the Government since 1848 has removed this restriction.

Below Fénestrelles, the route passes through numerous villages and hamlets—Montole, Rouse Villaret, and Chapelle—before reaching Perosa or

3 hrs. 10 min. *Perouse* (*Inns*: Sole; Antico; Auberge Nationale), the principal town in the valley, which is sometimes called the Valley of Perouse. It is situated directly opposite to the valley of St. Martin, one of the most interesting of the Protestant valleys.

[From Perouse a moderate ascent through a beautiful valley leads to *Perrier*, or *Perrero*. A little above this village the valley forks. The N.W. branch, preserving the name *Val de St. Martin*, leads, amidst fruit-trees, corn, and pasturages, to the commune of *Manille*. A little beyond the road enters a deep ravine which is singularly wild and beautiful; at its upper extremity it reaches the hamlet of *St. Marcel*.

Continuing up the valley of the Germanasca, the house of the M. Tron, the Syndic of Marcel, is passed; a singularly handsome structure in such a situation. About a league

above this spot is the hamlet of *Balsille*; and immediately over it, the celebrated *Castella*, a terrace on the side of a peaked mountain, where the Vaudois entrenched themselves under Henri Arnaud. Here the little handful of brave men, not exceeding from 600 to 700, struggled for their fatherland, and fought, for three days, the united armies of France and Sardinia, amounting to 22,000 men. When the latter, however, found it necessary to bring up artillery, which was accomplished with excessive difficulty, the heroic Vaudois, foreseeing that against the cannon they could not hold their position, retreated during the night without losing a man; and the following day, their sovereign of Sardinia, having quarrelled with his allies, agreed to restore them to their valleys and their hearths. No history exists so replete with wonderful adventures as that of the simple peasants of these valleys, who fought and suffered, and reconquered, for liberty of conscience.

Above the Balsille, one of the grandest assemblages of materials for alpine scenery is to be found, in cataracts, ravines, and mountains: from the head of the valley there is a pass by the Col du Piz to Pragelas in the valley of Clusone. The author has crossed from Pragelas to Perouse in one day, and he knows no finer traverse in the Alps, and the panorama from the col is one of the most sublime in the great chain.

Another pass between the valleys of the Germanasca and the Clusone is that by the Col Albergian, which leads from the Balsille and the wild valley and Alps above it to Fénestrelles.

From Perouse to the Balsille, and back to Perouse, may be accomplished easily in a day.]

The S.W. branch of the Val St. Martin is properly called the Val Germanasca. This in its turn is divided into 2 branches, the one leading to *Rodoretto*, the other to *Pralis*. From the first there is a pass leading to Cesanne (Rte. 160). From Pralis it is possible to reach Cesanne on the



one side, or Abriés (Rte. 162) on the other, by the *Col d'Abriés*.

There is an interesting pass from the lower part of the Val Germanasca to *Pra del Tor*, in the Val Angrogna, and thence to La Tour de Luserna.]

On the route from Perouse to Pignerol some fine quarries are passed, where stone is raised for the public works of Turin; nearly opposite to these is seen another of the Protestant churches, *St. Germano*, and the little valley which leads to *Pramol*; still further down is the church of *Pra-rustin*, nearly opposite to where the valley widens, and the road enters upon the plains, through the hamlets of Port and Abadia, to

*Pignerol* (Ital. Pinerolo)—(Inns: Corona, good; Canon d'Or). Pignerol is a straggling town; the old part, on the height, of narrow dirty streets; the *new*, between the rly. and Porte de France, having manufactures of cotton, wool, &c., and a large population, 20,000. It was once a strong fortress.

The *Convent of St. Francis* is partly ancient, and its *Church* contains monuments to ancestors of the royal house of Savoy.

On the hill of *St. Brigide* are ruins of a chapel, and of the ancient *citadel*, in which the "Man in the Iron Mask" was shut up. Near the Town-hall (*Palazzo della Città*) are the *Theatre* and a *College*.

*Railway* 23½ m.; 3 trains a-day in 1 hr. 10 min. to Turin; the stations being Riva, Piscina, Avrasca, None, Candiolo, Nichelino, and Sangone.

## ROUTE 162.

PIGNEROL TO MONT DAUPHIN, BY THE VALLEYS OF THE VAUDOIS AND THE COL DE LA CROIX.

Pignerol.	La Tour de Luserna.
La Tour de Luserna . . . . .	3
Bobbio . . . . .	2
Col de la Croix . . . . .	4
Abriés . . . . .	2
Château de Queyras . . . . .	2
Mont Dauphin . . . . .	4

From *Pignerol* (Rte. 161) to La Tour a diligence daily; 9 Eng. the route lies through St. Securo, Bischerasco, 5 m., and 3 m. further the first Protestant commune at

*St. Giovanni*. Here a church was built while Piedmont was under the government of Napoleon. Upon the restoration of the house of Savoy, the Roman Catholics, whose church is on the other side of a stream, complained that the voices of the Protestants in singing disturbed their devotions, and an order was given to shut out the abominable by a large barricade of wood, which the Vaudois were compelled to erect before the door of their church. This has now, however, dropped away bit by bit, and little remains of this evidence of intolerance. The church is of a singular form—a horse-shoe—but it is not favourable to the preacher or his congregation.

About a mile beyond St. Giovanni, through a beautiful country, lies

*La Tour* (Inns; L'Ours, cher G. clean and good; Lion d'Or, cher Rottier), the principal town of the Protestant communities. The valley of La Tour is known also as the valley of Luserna and the Val Pellice. The handsome *Protestant Church* was built here 1850, with residences for the clergy and professors. General Bonaparte contributed largely to it. A British veteran, who lost his leg at Waterloo, devoted 34 years of his life to improving the condition of the Waldenses. He lived among them, took a wife from among them, built churches—more than 100 schools.

them, and lies buried (1862) in the churchyard here.

An *hospital* has been established for the sick and poor among the Protestants, by funds raised chiefly in Holland, Russia, and England. In 1837, by the aid of an anonymous gift from England, of 5000*l.* confided to the late Rev. Dr. Gilly, a *College* was established here for the education of young men for the ministry of the Vaudois churches, and they have thus removed the necessity which had hitherto existed of sending them to Geneva or Lausanne. This institution is chiefly endowed by funds raised in foreign countries, but owing in a great measure to the liberality, the exertions, and the zeal for the cause of the Vaudois, of General Beckwith and Dr. Gilly. A large Roman Catholic church has been built here for the conversion of the Vaudois, but it has been attended by signal failure. An orphanage under English auspices has been instituted, also a normal school.

Within  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. of Luserna a cotton-mill of 4 stories, moved by water-power, has been built by a Swiss Company. Jean Henri Tron is a respectable and trustworthy guide, well acquainted with the neighbouring mountains. The mountaineer must not, however, expect to find here men capable of aiding in difficult or adventurous excursions.

No part of the Alps for richness and beauty in the lower valleys, and for wild and magnificent scenery in the defiles and mountains, surpasses the valleys of the Vaudois. Easy of access by railroad from Turin to Pignerol, La Tour is reached in 2 hrs. from the latter, through a country luxuriant in vegetation. There are good inns at La Tour, to make headquarters for excursions; and the civility of all classes to strangers, especially English, ought to be a recommendation to rambles in their country. Of the Vaudois generally, but especially of the mountaineers, it has been justly said, that "they are, from ancient habit, honest, civil, and quiet; and, from their situation and necessity, simple and laborious."

[One of the most interesting excursions from La Tour is into the valley of *Angrogna*, which is surrounded by lofty mountains and pasturages. It is richly wooded down to the deep defiles of its torrent, and presents every variety of scenery. Some of its wild scenes are associated with the history of the Vaudois; as the defiles or *Barricades of Pra del Tor* (2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.' walk from La Tour), which, defended by them, gave security to their families, who sought refuge within this grand and most picturesque defile. Above it, in the recesses of these mountains, concealed from the world for many ages, their Barbes, or teachers, imparted instruction, and fitted their pupils for the ministry. Every foot of ground in this valley is sacred in the history of this extraordinary people. In the Pra del Tor there has lately been erected a Roman Catholic church, but the heart of the valley is not the heart of the people. This excursion may be varied by crossing directly over the hill from a little below the Pra del Tor to St. Marguerite, and thence to La Tour (3 hrs.' walk): the whole excursion may be made in half a day.

The excursion may be varied by following the high-road to the village of Angrogna, which offers from many beautiful points of view the plains of Piedmont. The return may be made through the defiles, or on the steep slopes that bound the river. A day given to explore the Val Angrogna will be remembered with pleasure.]

From La Tour, up the valley of the Pellice, the road, widened for carriages as far as Bobbio, but execrably rough, passes by the hamlet of St. Marguerite, near the rock of Castelluz, where is situated a Protestant church. Beyond this hamlet the ascent of the valley is rich and picturesque. [Opposite the village of Villar a narrow glen opens to the S., by which Crissolo, in the head valley of the Po (Rte. 163), may be reached in 5 or 6 hrs. over the ridge of the *Sea Bianca*.]

2½ hrs. from La Tour

*Bobbio* is reached. No inn. A station of Sardinian préposés, or douaniers, and a café, where Jacques Raimond, a civil and experienced guide for the mountains, may be heard of. Above *Bobbio* there is only a mule-path, 7 hrs.' walk to *Abries*.

[From *Bobbio*, a pass N. over the mountain by *Serra le Cruel* and the *Col Julien* leads to *Pralis* in 6 or 7 hrs. From *La Tour* this is a day's journey, and few excursions offer more striking scenes especially from the *Col Julien*. Near the summit, 4 hrs.' hard walk from *Bobbio*, surmounting all the neighbouring ridges, the *Monte Viso* appears so near that the path to the *Col de Viso*, on the side of France, can be distinctly traced, ascending nearly due S., beneath the precipices till it turns abruptly to the E. at the col. The descent towards *Pralis* is very long and fatiguing, 2 hrs.' hard walk. *Pralis* consists of 4 separate hamlets. there is no Inn, but at the 3rd of these strangers are received kindly at the pastor's house, if he has room. From *Pralis* down the valley to *Perosa* (Rte. 161) is 4 hrs. by a char road.]

On leaving *Bobbio* a long wall is seen, an embankment, or Breakwater, made to guard the village from the inundations of the *Pellice*; it was built by a grant from *Oliver Cromwell*, during whose protectorate one of those fearful calamities nearly destroyed *Bobbio*. A little beyond, the river is crossed, and the mountain ascent begins; soon, on bending to the l., the scenery becomes wild, though the bottom is still occupied by water-meadows scattered here and there with walnut and chestnut. The last view down the valley towards *Bobbio* is very fine.

After a long course amidst strangely situated hamlets, where rocks and trees of the wildest character make up a rapid succession of picturesque scenes, the path reaches a dreary mass of rocks, over which is poured the torrent of the *Pellice*, and further progress seems forbidden. Up amidst these fallen fragments, however, a path is found, threading a deep ravine,

in which are the ruins of the fort of *Mirabouc*, built against the steep escarpments of the mountain, in a gorge which is utterly impassable the side opposite to the fort; nor there a path on the side where the ruins of the fort stand that does not pass through its former gates. The fort was demolished after the wars of the French revolution, in 1796.

[A little before reaching *Mirabouc* a valley towards the rt. leads to the village of *Abries* by the *Col Malaure*, a shorter but more difficult path than that by the *Col de la Croix*.]

Above the fort *Mirabouc*, a rough pitched path through a narrow sterile valley enters upon the meadows of the *Bergerie de Pra* (3½ hrs. from *Bobbio*)—the highest hamlet in the valley, situated in the midst of fertile pasturages, where barley and potatoes are raised.

From the *Bergerie* of *Pra*, where the Alpine traveller may rest in a grange with more comfort than in many places of much greater pretension, he may reach the French side of *Monte Viso* by the *Col de Seyler* at a much earlier hour than to *Abries* in the valley of the *Guil*. Having crossed it, the distance is short to the *Col de la Traversette*, and this is the easiest détour by *Monte Viso* from the *Val de Pellice* to the valley of the *Po*.

The lovers of the chase may find a hunter's accommodation at the *Bergerie de Pra*. The abundance of game in the surrounding mountains and the fine, honest character of the peasantry here, are great temptations to its enjoyment.

The ascent to the *Col de la Croix* is by a steep path, marked by zigzags up the abrupt side of the mountain towards *Piedmont*. The col is reached in 1½ hr. from the *Bergerie*; and from the highest point (7611 ft.) there is a striking view of the defile of *Mirabouc* and *Monte Viso* is a noble object. The col is nearly level for half an hour, and then the path, traversing the bottom of a hollow, gradually subsides into the valley of the *Guil*, within the

tory of France. On the col there is a block of stone carved with the fleur-de-lis, and the cross of Savoy, to mark the frontier, and at *La Monta*, in the valley of the Guil, a station of the douane, where travellers are examined; the descent into France is very gradual; traces of an intended road surveyed under Napoleon may be seen. On the rt., in descending, there is a den, miscalled an inn, at *La Monta*; thence, through the hamlet of *Ristolas*, you reach in 2½ hrs. from the col

*Abries* (a country Inn, *Etoile*, or *chez Richard*; very fair quarters; but make your bargain and fix prices beforehand), a town of 1525 Inhab. Here the torrent from *Valprevaire* flows into the Guil, and a path up its course leads to several mountain passes. Below *Abries* the road through the valley of the Guil, good and passable for a light calèche, passes the valleys in which there are still Protestant communities, particularly that of *St. Veran* (Rte. 169), in a valley which joins from the l. the valley of the Guil, at *Villevielles*, and the valley of *Arvieux*, which enters that of the Guil near *Queiras*. To these, and the *Val Frassenières*, on the other side of the *Durance*, the name of the *Pays de Neff* has been given, to commemorate the services rendered to these communities by the Swiss Protestant minister, who devoted his life to renovating and sustaining the religious worship of the primitive Christians that had existed in these valleys from time immemorial. *Neff*, like *Oberlin*, the good pastor of the *Ban de la Roche*, not only promoted the religious faith and practice of these people, but established schools, and taught them agriculture, and the elements of other useful knowledge. He died in 1829. His name throughout these valleys is remembered with the deepest reverence and affection. 2½ hrs. further is

*The Château de Queiras*, finely situated in the valley: it is gar-  
risoned, and entirely commands the pass, and from every point of view  
[Switz.]

presents a most picturesque object. There is a tolerable inn at *Queiras*.

Below *Queiras* a new road is open to *Mont Dauphin*. The old one skirts the deep bed of the river for a short way, then descending to the torrent, which it crosses, it continues for nearly 2 hrs., through a fine defile. In some places the mountains seem to close in above the traveller; and it is often necessary to cross the Guil to find a path on one side, which is forbidden on the other by projecting rocks or precipices of vast height: some hamlets are passed in this savage ravine. From some points in the path there is a magnificent view of the *Mont Pelvoux*, seen at the head of the *Val Louise*. At length the road emerges, winds up a steep and rugged path, crosses the torrent of *Seillac*, and descends upon *Guillestre* (a very fair Inn, perhaps the best in this part of *Dauphiné*), a little bourg, lying on the l. of the road to *Mont Dauphin*, which was one of the stations, during the war, for English prisoners.

A little below, the road passes beneath the fort of *Mont Dauphin*, planned by *Vauban* and *Catinat*, which guards this entrance to France—a garrison singularly placed on a precipitous rock of conglomerate that is nearly insulated at the mouth of the Guil at its confluence with the *Durance*. The Inn (*Café du Nord*) is good for *Dauphiné*, but not clean; clean lodgings and beds are kept for the officers of the garrison, and can be engaged by travellers. For the sake of these it may be worth while to ascend the steep hill on which the fort stands, besides which, from the drawbridge you have a fine view of *Mont Pelvoux*, under *Mont Dauphin*. The great route from *Marseilles* and *Digne* to *Briançon* is entered; and the course down the valley to *Embrun* (2 hrs.) is by an admirably formed and well-kept road. (See HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE.)

If this excursion be commenced from the side of France the diligence from *Briançon* to *Gap* will drop the traveller at *Mt. Dauphin* (5 or 6 hrs. walk from *Briançon*), where an omnibus will take him on to *Guillestre*.

There he can hire a one-horse calèche for Abries, stopping at Queiras to rest and dine. *Time*: Briançon to Guillestre,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. G. to Abries, 6 hrs., exclusive of stops. Avoid making the journey between the 1st and 21st of July, that being the time allowed by the French Government for cutting wood in the forests—the horses are then all employed, and the charge for them is exorbitant: indeed it is so at all times.

### ROUTE 163.

#### MONT DAUPHIN TO SALUZZO, BY THE COL DE LA TRAVERSESETTE.

Time steady walking from Mont Dauphin to Queyras is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. through a magnificent ravine, good road; thence to Abries  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., scenery tamer; and to the col 5 hrs. more. The char-road ceases at La Monta. From thence to Crissolo, in the valley of the Po, the pass is only for pedestrians.

From Mont Dauphin to Abries (Rte. 162).

After passing *Ristolas* and ascending the valley of the Guil to La Monta—where the path to the Col de la Croix turns off to the l.—the route to the Monte Viso continues up the valley to the highest village, La Chalpe, about a mile and a half above La Monta. At La Chalpe guides may be obtained for excursions either across the Monte Viso to Saluzzo, or into the valleys and recesses of Monte Viso.

The valley of the Guil above Abries is narrow and savage: bare and precipitous escarpments descend

to the torrent, and form its left boundary: the bed of the Guil is filled with enormous rocks. The path to the col ascends above the rt. bank over steep acclivities and pasturages abounding in rare plants. Above these the head of the Monte Viso is continually presented filling the open space in the view, formed by the sides of the valley of the Guil. The highest chalet, probably nearly 8000 ft. above the sea, formerly afforded a very tolerable refuge for a night or two to a mountain traveller, but the roof fell in during the spring of 1860, owing to the weight of snow, and the only other hut, occupied by two or three shepherds, has a deterring aspect. From this point an active pedestrian may reach Bobbio, in the valley of the Pellice, in 5 hrs., and La Tour de Luserna in 7 hrs. (Rte. 162). Above the ruined Bergerie du Monviso the pasturages are at length left and the ascent lies over a road rudely paved with large rough stones. This has been several times repaired so as to enable mules to pass, but fresh damage is constantly arising from the action of the elements, and during some summers the snow lies low on both sides of the pass. The paved road reaches to the *Gallery of the Traversette*, pierced through the mountain 250 feet below the crest. Its entrance, long closed by the fallen débris of the precipices which overhang the pass, has been cleared of all obstacles, and opened out so as to render this pass easy to ordinary pedestrians. The tunnel is 250 ft. long, 10 ft. high, and 10 ft. wide.

Documents existing at Saluzzo prove that the *Pertuis du Viso*, or pass below the col, was executed by Ludovico L. Marquis of Saluzzo, who, with a spirit beyond his age, undertook this extraordinary work for the commercial interests of the people, by making a route three miles shorter than any other from Saluzzo to Dauphiné. By treaty with the king of Provence, who contributed towards the expenses on his side of the mountain, this road was opened.

ceive from France, by laden mules, salt, drapery, and metal wares, in return for nut-oil, wine, rice, and flax from the marquisate of Saluces. By means of this gallery, and the roads constructed as approaches, this intercourse was open 6 or 8 months in the year. The gallery was begun in 1478, and was completed in 1480;—an extraordinary work to accomplish in that time, as the excavators could only labour, at that height above the sea level, about 4 or 5 months in the year.

This gallery has frequently been buried under rocks descending from above—in 1620, 1676, 1798, 1812, 1823—and the fallen masses were removed by the people of the communes on either side of the mountain. It is liable to be closed by snow after severe winters.

The passage is once more free, and is greatly facilitated by the gallery; for, though the perpendicular height saved is not 300 ft., this is the most difficult part.

From the col the view down the valley of the Po, and over the plains of Piedmont, is pre-eminently beautiful. This vast expanse, seen from a height of very nearly 10,000 Eng. feet above the level of the sea, commands a view over an extent of 100 miles to the horizon. The rocks and vast precipices in the foreground and on the col, the deep subsidences of the mountains which bound the valley of the Po immediately below the observer, till they sink lower and lower into the plains, are most impressive. On the plain, bright but indistinct masses mark the positions of the towns and cities of Piedmont within the view, and this indistinctness, contrasted with the sharp and defined forms of the enormous peak of the Viso, rising yet 3000 feet higher than the spot on which the observer stands, and in close proximity, produce an indescribable effect upon his mind and feelings, making this one of the most magnificent and sublime scenes in the world.

In order to gain a prospect of the

range of Alps towards the north, the traveller must descend a little towards Italy, and then mount an eminence on the l. which before obscured that part of the chain: but this is only recommended to those who have time to spare, which few have who wish to gain Paesana on the side of Italy, or Abries in France, as resting-places for the night.

The traveller who would enjoy this view should leave Abries so as to be on the Col de Viso by 10 o'clock or earlier. This can only be made certain by starting soon after 4 in the morning from Abries, or better still, by sleeping at La Monta, or at one of the chalets higher up in the valley: before mid-day vapours rise in the plains and the valley of the Po, and obscure the prospect. The Chalet of La Trouchet lies in the bottom of the valley near where it is quitted to ascend the col; here clean straw or hay may be had to sleep upon, and ewe's milk curd for food. The chalet is situated half way in time between Abries and the col,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from each.

The col is a mere ridge, so narrow that it is traversed in a few paces. On it are the remains of a redoubt; and during the wars of the Revolution many struggles were made and skirmishes fought for the possession of this position.

Some, with no better foundation than the fact that the plains of the Po could be seen from the col, have supposed that this was the route of Hannibal; but the same authority that records his having shown the plains to his army states that the army encamped on the summit, and waited three days for stragglers. Here, 100 men could not have encamped, and the pass must ever have been impracticable to elephants, and even horses.

Down a steep and difficult path the traveller has to proceed towards the valley of the Po; but there is nothing about the pass that would strike even an inexperienced traveller as dangerous.



About 1000 ft. below the col a mass of rock is turned abruptly, and on the rt. there lies a scene unsurpassed for the immensity of the objects above, below, and around the observer. On looking up to the rt., one of the peaks of Monte Viso rises, in all its magnificence, on one side of a deep valley, in which are seen some little dark lakes, the sources of the Po, which below them is seen to trickle in a silver line down the black rocks, from the base of the Viso into the valley beyond. Nothing can exceed the impression of solitude and sublimity made by this scene. At length, however, the wildness of the scene is passed, and vegetation is soon after reached in a beautiful little plain covered with the richest herbage. This spot is called the *Piano del Re*; in it there is a delicious fountain, from which the traveller rarely fails to quaff.

A short descent from the Piano del Re leads to another little plain, the *Piano di Fiorenza*, so named from its beautiful flowers, with which it is enamelled. Nearly 2 m. below is the first hamlet, *Piana Malze*, a name derived from the forest of larches which is near it. The wretched appearance of its inhabitants is sickening: here is the station of the Sardinian douane. About 3 m. further down the valley is the highest village, *Crissolo*, formerly notorious for its wretched accommodation. There is now a tolerable *Inn* at the lowest of the hamlets in the commune. It is several degrees better than the mountain inns found in Dauphiné.

Below Crissolo there are some fine wild scenes in the valley of the Po; and after having passed the confluence of the Lenta with the Po, the village of Oncino is seen in a striking situation between the two rivers. From Oncino, the view of the valley of the Po, and the plains of Piedmont, is singularly fine. The inhabitants of Oncino had some celebrity as brigands; at least their neighbours gave them that character.

Professor Forbes made an interesting excursion round Monte Viso in 1829. Instead of descending to the

pasturages on the side of Piedmont, he skirted, on the eastern side, the middle height of the Monte Viso, and passing the little dark lakes, the sources of the Po, ascended the valley under the Viso, which runs nearly parallel to the great chain; and crossing the col that divides this valley from that of Ponte, which leads down to Castel Delfino, and ascending on the rt. from the Val de Ponte, recrossed the main chain by the Col de Coulaon on the W. shoulder of the Monte Viso, and thence descended into the valley of the Guil, having made a complete circuit of the mountain; but it was accomplished only with excessive fatigue and difficulty.

Now that there is tolerable accommodation at Crissolo the best way to make the tour is to take a guide from that village and cross the ridge separating the Po from the upper part of the Val di Vallante (Rte. 165), keeping as high up, and as near to the main mass of Monte Viso, as possible: from thence an active mountaineer might cross the Col di Vallante to the Bergerie, and from thence return to the valley of the Po by the Traversette, all in the same day, but it would be a severe day's work.

*Paesana* is distant from Crissolo about 3 hrs. It is a large town with 5000 Inhab. Here there is a very tolerable inn. Desiderio king of the Lombards, who was defeated by Charlemagne, and kept prisoner for a long time at Vienne, in Dauphiné, was permitted at last to take up his residence at Paesana. From Paesana a tolerable road branches off to

*Barge*—(*Inn*: Lion d'Or, good and cheap)—and passes through a beautiful and rich country, by Bibbiena and St. Giovanni, to Lucerna and La Torre (Rte. 134).

From Paesana to Saluces is about 17 m., passing through the town of

*Sanfront* (Inhab. above 5000) and the villages of Gambasca and Martiniana. At the latter, the valley,

which had widened to the plains from Paesana, is altogether left by the traveller and the remaining distance of 6 or 7 m., after skirting the mountain, enters upon the plain, over a level road, to

*Saluces* (Ital. Saluzzo) (*Inns*: H. du Coq; Couronne; Armes de Savoie), a town of 15,814 Inhab. Not much to be seen here. *Cathedral*, 1480. The old *Castle* of the Marquises of Saluces, above the town, is now a prison. Fine view from its terrace. In one of the squares, a statue of *Silvio Pellico*, author of 'Mie Prigioni,' born here 1789. Fine fruits—peaches, figs. Rly. hence to Turin by Savigliano in 1½ hr.

## ROUTE 165.

### ABRIÉS TO CUNEO, BY VAL VRAITA OR VAL MAIRA.

This route leads through very beautiful scenery, which has been much neglected by tourists, and the pass of Vallante presents some grand and striking scenes. The Monte Viso juts out towards Italy from the main chain of the Cottian Alps in the form of a bastion, the acute inner angle of which belongs to France, and sends its waters to the Guil. The N.E. face of the bastion rises above the head of the valley of the P'o, while the S. face sends its waters through various secondary valleys to the Val Vraita.

The summit of Monte Viso being considered the salient angle of the bastion, the pass of the Traversette lies to the N.W., the Col di Vallante, immediately W. of the summit, crossing the S. face of the bastion.

From Abriés to a short distance

below the Bergerie de Monviso the route is the same as in Rte. 163. At that point, instead of turning up to the l., the main valley is followed for ½ hr. towards the highest peak of the mountain. The scenery here is very impressive. The head of the valley forms a sort of amphitheatre; in the nearly level bottom snow lies for 9 or 10 months of the year; and around, especially towards the highest part of the mountain, precipitous faces of rock alternate with steep shelving slopes covered with perpetual snow. In spite of the great height of Monte Viso (12,586 ft.), none but small glaciers of the second order are formed about it, partly because of its extreme steepness, partly because the climate is very sensibly warmer than that of Switzerland or northern Piedmont.

The ascent to the Col de Vallante commences up a mass of very steep débris mingled with snow at the base of some vertical rocks. It will be advisable to take one of the shepherds from the last châteaux to show the way, as it may very easily be missed. Above the débris is an extensive snow ridge, over which the course bears somewhat to the rt. or E. of S., till the traveller suddenly finds himself on the upper margin of a steep hollow channel, or couloir, the bottom of which is filled with snow.

The descent, though steep, presents no difficulty to a practised mountaineer, nor will he require a guide beyond the summit. Care must be taken to keep to the rt. side of the ravine which commences below the snow-slopes. The summit of the Col di Vallante is about the height of the Traversette, or nearly 10,000 Eng. ft.; and the vertical height descended to reach the highest châteaux in Val di Vallante must be very considerable. At these châteaux of Ponte a hospitable old man will give shelter for the night, with milk, cheese, &c., to tired traveller; and for those making the tour of Monte Viso, these quarters, however poor, are convenient. Care is necessary to avoid mistakes arising from the name Ponte being applied to several different places in this

neighbourhood. The principal place so named is *Ponte Chianale*, the chief village in the S. branch of the Val Vraita. The small hamlet of *Castelponte*, 2 hrs. below Ponte Chianale, at the junction of the Val di Vallante with the Val de Chianale, is also called Ponte; and the chalets above spoken of bear the same name.

A short distance below the chalets trees begin to appear, and the scenery of the lower part of the Val di Vallante is very beautiful, the charm being enhanced by its contrast with the bare and savage character of the higher valleys of Monte Viso. From Castelponte there is a rough mule-path to Casteldelfino; but there are footpaths which make the way shorter and pleasanter to the pedestrian. In 9 hrs. from Abriès the traveller reaches

*Casteldelfino*, the chief village of the upper Val Vraita, containing a poor Inn; the landlord is blind; but though not to be recommended, it is better than similar places in Dauphiné. The position is very beautiful; and if the accommodation were better, it would be an excellent place for headquarters. The *Val Vraita*, which runs due E. for 20 m. from hence to Venasca, where it opens out into the plain of Piedmont, differs in character from the neighbouring valleys. Being less contracted, it has fine open pastures, extensive pine-forests on the slopes of the mountains, and some tillage in the bottom of the valley. Above Casteldelfino it is separated into two branches by the ridge descending from the *Gran Rioburent*, 11,000 ft. in height, the highest peak in the chain S. of Monte Viso. The N. branch, or Val di Chianale, leads by the *Col del Agnello* to Queiras in the valley of the Guil (Rte. 162), or by the *Col de Longet* to Barcelonette, through the valley of the Ubaye (Rte. 169). Both these passes are nearly 9000 ft. in height. The S. branch, or Val di Bellino, communicates by several passes with the valley of the Ubaye. There is a char-road from Casteldelfino to *Sampyre*, about 10 m., the chief village in Val Vraita, and from thence

to *Venasca*, 10 m. farther. This is distant about 10 m. either from Saluzzo, or from the stat. of Maddalena on the rly. from Turin to Cuneo. Those who are not pressed for time, and who wish to see more of this portion of the Alps, will cross the ridge S. of Casteldelfino, separating the valleys of Vraita and Maira. The ascent to the *Col di Elva* is very beautiful, partly through pine-forest partly through open pastures covered with rare and beautiful alpine plants. It is but a slight détour to ascend nearly due S., reaching the ridge a little to the E. of the actual col. The views in the ascent, and from the summit, are very beautiful. Monte Viso is of course the most conspicuous object, but in many other directions rugged ranges are seen, whose very existence is unknown to the generality of alpine travellers. W. of the col is a fine rocky peak, the *Pelvo di Elva*, just 10,000 ft. in height, which must command a still finer view. From the summit (probably about 7000 ft. in height) there is a path leading down to a small cluster of very poor houses, at the head of a ravine which runs down due S. to the main valley. Like the Val Maira itself, these tributary valleys or ravines are all extremely steep and abrupt, so that it is a matter of labour and difficulty, often an impossibility, to cross them. It is therefore necessary to decide in time whether the traveller intends to steer for *Pras*, or *Prazzo*, the highest village in Val Maira, where tolerable quarters are to be found, or whether he proposes to reach on the same day *S. Damiano*, at the lower end of the valley. In either case a considerable détour is rendered necessary by the extreme steepness of all the slopes of the mountains. The course to *Pras* is to the rt. of the main ravine; thence to *Stroppa*, the first village in the Val Maira, after a steep descent, bearing away to the l. by the village of *Elva*. The scenery throughout bears comparison with many districts of far greater celebrity; and the view of the ranges of the Maritime Alps, from

projecting eminence, which must be crossed by a short ascent from the village of Elva, is one of the most striking in this part of the Alps. Stroppo lies more than a thousand feet lower than Casteldelfino, yet the river runs in a deep ravine below which it has cut out of the yielding strata. *Stroppo* has a very small *Inn*, of which, owing to the landlord's absence, the writer was unable to see the interior. At the next village, *Alma*, there are two *Inns*, both very mean, so that it is better to push on to S. Damiano, about 3 hrs. from Stroppo. The walk should, if possible, be taken either early or late, as it is oppressively hot during the day-time. Yet it would be a loss to pass such beautiful scenery in the dark; and the track is so extremely rough that it would be disagreeable, and even dangerous in places where it is a mere narrow shelf cut out of a precipitous slope.

*San Damiano* is a large and thriving village, with a very fair *Inn*, where a one-horse vehicle may be hired, which will reach the rly. stat. at Cuneo in about 3 hrs., passing through the fine country town of Dronero.

## ROUTE 166.

CUNEO TO EMBRUN, BY THE COL D'ARGENTIÈRE AND BARCELONETTE.

The Stura, one of the largest affluents of the Po, which the traveller to Nice crosses near Cuneo, or Coni, issues from an open valley opposite to St. Dalmazio, where the high road to Nice is left, and the course up the valley of the Stura is by a very good road for a light carriage, which extends as far as Venadio—greatly facilitating the intercourse with this place, which is the principal bourg in the valley, and offering a temptation to invalids to visit the mineral springs in the neighbourhood, which are much frequented. The distance from St. Dalmazio to Venadio is nearly 8 leagues.

In ascending the valley, the first hamlet is that of St. Martino; soon after passing it the Stura appears in its deep course in the valley; and beyond it, rising abruptly amidst some pinnacled rocks and precipices, lies the village of Rocca Sparviera. Francis I. in his invasion of Italy (1515) despatched a column of cavalry under Bayard from Briançon by the Cols de Sestrière and Argentière, paths where a horse had seldom passed before, which, descending suddenly the rocks of Rocca Sparviera, surprised the Papal general Prosper Colonna at table in Villa Franca, near the head-water of the Po, and made him prisoner, with a band of 700 knights, his followers, so suddenly that he asked if they had dropped from the clouds.

Soon after passing Rocca Sparviera the road winds down to the river, crosses the Stura, and continues on its left bank almost throughout the valley. The cultivated land which borders the Stura is very rich and luxuriant: the chestnut trees are of

great magnitude; and the forms of the mountains which bound the valley are highly picturesque.

About 4 leagues from St. Dalmazio the traveller reaches

*Demont* (Inn: Fleur de Lys, poor).

A town formerly remarkable for its fort, which guarded the valley of the Stura and the communication with France by the Col d'Argentière; it was built by Charles Emanuel I. in the 16th cent., upon the ruins of an old castle which had been razed by the Austrians in 1559. It has been memorable for its sieges in almost every war between France and Sardinia. In that of 1744, when the Spanish and French armies, commanded by the infant Don Philip and the Prince of Condé, invaded Piedmont, they forced the narrow pass of the Barricades, descended the valley of the Stura, and took the fort of Demont by the use of red-hot shot. Afterwards they besieged Coni, and fought a battle which they won from Charles Emanuel III., who succeeded, however, in throwing supplies into the city, which was gallantly defended. After a long and tedious investment, the storms of autumn and the want of supplies—which were cut off by the Piedmontese peasantry—compelled the allies to raise the siege and recross the Alps towards the latter end of November, when they suffered the severest privations from cold, hunger, and fatigue. Though pursued by the troops, assailed by the peasants, and exposed to storms, yet they returned to France, over frozen roads, and through deep snow, with all their artillery, and with a few guns taken from their enemies,—the miserable trophies for which they had sacrificed thousands of lives and millions of treasure: on their way they destroyed the fort of Demont. It was again restored, but finally demolished in 1801; when Piedmont having become a part of France, the forts that guarded the defiles on the frontiers of Dauphiny were razed. Since the restoration of Piedmont the reconstruction of many has been contem-

plated, some begun, and this among them. The mound upon which the ruins stand is situated in the middle of the valley,—the river passing on one side and the road on the other. From Demont to

*Venadio*, the scenery is, in many places, highly picturesque,—a charm for which it is much indebted to the magnificent old trees which form foregrounds to beautiful views of the river and the mountains; and these are heightened by the festoons of vines and gourds which decorate the branches. From the town of Venadio the scene down the valley is very fine. Here it is necessary to leave the chariot, but mules may be hired for continuing the journey up the valley, and across the Argentière into France. About an hour above Venadio at a place called Plancie, a ravine, with a cascade at its entrance, joins the valley on the left. In this ravine, at an hour's walk from Plancie, are the *Baths of Venadio*—a very humble and sequestered establishment. The ravine which leads to them is in some places very grand, and abounds in cascades both above and below the baths.

Above Venadio the change is rapid to wild and Alpine scenery, varying from a road by the stream which ripples through quiet meadows, to narrow paths which overhang the corner of the torrent—a course too narrow in the ravine for a path by the river; it is therefore carried on ledges of the precipices above, and forms, in some places, fearful mule-paths for the traveller's ascent of the valley. Such scenes are observed near Zambucco. Above are the villages of Pied à Port and Pont Bernardo. At a place called the *Barricades*—a narrow defile, where defences of the valley were formerly erected, and which was often the scene of desperate conflicts—the road is carried along a shelf of rock above the river, and has been cut out of the precipices which darken and overhang the ravine, and offer an almost impregnable barrier to the passage of the valley. Above the

Barricades the road, or rather path, lies amidst the *débris* of the mountains which bound the valley, and offer a scene of wild desolation. Above it lie the villages of Praynard and Bersesio; the latter is the principal place between the Barricades and the Col d'Argentière. Here accommodation may be found, after a long day's journey from Coni, preparatory to another from Bersesio, across the mountain to Barcelonette.

*Bersesio*, about 4 hrs. from Venadio, has a very tolerable mountain *Inn*. Above this village the scenery is wild and rugged, the mountains presenting a thousand pinnacles of rock, blighted and scathed. Still, in the valley, barley is cultivated, and the pastures are rich; and the villages of Argentière and La Madelaine are found, where there is a poor little *Inn*. Soon after passing this, the path leads abruptly to the *Col d'Argentière*, also called *Col della Maddalena*, 6700 ft. above the level of the sea. Before arriving at the crest, the path skirts a little lake, the source of the Stura, called La Madelaine: it is about 600 or 700 ft. across. This lake is supposed to be the source also of the Ubayette, a stream on the side of France; for, at a short distance from the col on that side, and a little below the level of the lake, a spring—the source of the Ubayette—gushes out: this spring, it is believed, communicates with the lake.

From the summit the view is very extensive, especially towards France, looking down the course of the Ubayette towards l'Arche, the frontier station of the French douane. L'Arche is nearly 3 hours from Bersesio; it has a very humble *Inn*, but kept by civil people. Better accommodation, however, will be found, *chez Peneant*, at *Meyronne*, where there is a comfortable country *Inn*; but provisions are, in this neighbourhood, very scarce. From L'Arche to Meyronne is an hour's walk, and thence to Barcelonette  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. At Meyronne there is an excellent guide to the neighbouring Alps, named Du-

mas. Below l'Arche there is little interest in the scenery. The road descends through the villages of Certamusa and Meyronne to the junction of the Ubayette with the Ubaye, where two roads lead into the Embrunnais,—the principal following the course of the Ubaye to Barcelonette, the other leading by the camp of Tournoux, the village of St. Paul, and the Col de Vars, to Guillestre and the valley of the Durance.

The scene is fine from where these roads separate. Châtelard, a well-cultivated little plain, is left on the rt., and the road passes on through Jausier. There is not much interest generally in the scenery, except at Pont de Cluse, near Jausier, where the rocky defile through which the Ubaye struggles offers some fine points of view.

The pass of the Argentière has an historic interest, because through it Francis I. penetrated with an army of 20,000 men (1513) into Italy to meet the Swiss and other foes at Marignan. They had got the start of the French by occupying Susa and seizing all the gorges communicating with the Monts Cenis and Genève, so that Francis was obliged either to make a very great *détour* or to find or make a passage for himself. The information of experienced hunters and shepherds obtained by the Signor Soleir, lord of Moreta, induced him to select the passes leading from Barcelonette to the sources of the Stura and the country of Saluzzo. The valleys were explored by the Marshals Lautree and Trivulzio and by Pedro Novarro, who undertook not only to conduct the infantry, but all the artillery, consisting of 72 large pieces and 300 small. This was successfully achieved after great difficulty, the guns requiring to be swung by rope from rock to rock, where neither bridge could be built nor rocks blasted by powder; and on the third day the army encamped on the summit of the pass. The Rocher de St. Paul, near Barcelonette, which barred the passage, was blasted in a single day by P. Novarro, one of the first engineers



who practised military mining. But this was the easiest part of the task; far more arduous was it, on the edge of sloping crags smoothed with avalanches and slippery with ice, to plant and to fasten the timber props on which frail bridges could be reared to cross the torrents, and against the face of precipices and over yawning gulfs, to erecting scaffoldings of shaky planks which horses, mules, and 72 heavy cannon could venture to pass over. In some cases this was impossible, and the only alternative was to let down the gun by ropes into the gorge on one side and raise it up on the opposite. All these and many more difficulties were overcome; on the third day the army camped on the summit of the pass, on the fourth the obstacles of the mountain Pico di Porco were surmounted, and on the fifth the French were pouring like a torrent over the plains of Saluzzo.

*Barcelonette* has 2200 Inhab., and a very good *Inn*, Hôtel du Nord, chez Maurin. The town, on the rt. bank of the Ubaye, shut in by mountains—N. the Castebello, S. the Roche Pointue—is better built than one would expect to find in a valley so sequestered. In the principal street a fountain bears a bronze bust of Ant. Manuel, the orator of the Restoration.

It is chiefly inhabited by the proprietors of the Alps and pasturages of the valley. More than 100,000 sheep are pastured in its communes, which come, during the summer, from the vast plains of La Crau, in the neighbourhood of Arles; these sheep are driven into the most difficult accessible pasturages of the Alps, often 20 days' journey. From their wool some coarse goods, consumed chiefly by the inhabitants, are made; there is much corn also grown in the valley; but for almost everything else they are indebted to strangers, in other valleys or other countries; it is not long that the cultivation of potatoes has been practised among them.

This valley was known to the Romans, but little of its history is to be relied upon, except in connection with that of Embrun, which has been bet-

ter preserved. It is known that it was subjected to irruptions by Saxons and by Saracens, who made their way from Marseilles; these were defeated by Charles Martel; under Charlemagne France had the benefit of a protecting government. In the sixth century, a convent of Benedictines established here did much to ameliorate the condition of the inhabitants of the valley; but all the wars in which Provence has been engaged have extended their horrors in this valley, and it was often liable to the irruptions of the Saracens, particularly in the 10th century. From the 11th century it was alternately subject to Savoy or France. Amadeus conquered it in 1388; it was re-attached to Provence by René of Anjou in 1445; it was again taken by the duke of Savoy, Charles III., in 1537. In the middle of the 16th century the inhabitants adopted the Reformed doctrines, but they were shortly afterwards either forced to abjure them or were expelled their country.

Napoleon contemplated the construction of a new road through the valley of Barcelonette to pass the Col d'Argentière and enter Piedmont by the Val de Stura. Since his abdication the idea seems to have been abandoned; but its benefits to the inhab. of the valley, by the great development of their energies and the increased prosperity of Barcelonette, ought to have some weight with the government of France.

There are many communications with the neighbouring valleys, by passes in the mountains; as with Embrun by the Col de la Vachère, with Colmar and Alos (Rte. 168), and with Nice by the valleys of the Tignes and the Varo.

Soon after leaving Barcelonette, near the village of St. Pons, the ruins of a castle and a ch. are seen in a high situation. The roads down the valleys of Barcelonette are in so wretched a state, that the want of embankments exposes the inhabitants of the valley to the frequent loss of communication, from the destructive effects of the torrents. Not far below Bar-

celonette it is necessary to ford the beds of the Bachelar, the Rio Bourdon, and other torrents, for want of bridges.

The first large village below Barcelonette is La Thuiles, and the next, after crossing the Ubaye by a wooden bridge, Méolans; thence down the valley there is a tolerable char-road. Amidst dreary and wild scenes, the general character of the valley of Barcelonette, there is, however, a striking exception in a village, beautifully situated, called

*Le Lauzet* (Inn: Hôtel de l'Europe), the Goshen of the valley. It is agreeably wooded; near it is a little lake which abounds in fine trout, and in the immediate neighbourhood are fruit-trees and a fertile soil. A little way, however, below the village the scene changes again to sterility. After crossing a ridge, a series of tourniquets leads down the pass of La Tour, or, as it is called, the *Chemin Royal*, a part of the road in the valley admirably made; but, unconnected as it is with the country above or below by any road so good, it is worthless.

Below these tourniquets the valley offers some of its most wild and grand scenes. On looking back from the path carried along the brink of the precipices high above the torrent, the Ubaye is seen in its deep course issuing from the defile of La Tour, and beyond, the grand forms of the mountain of *Cugulion des Trois Evêques*, which divides the valley of Barcelonette from that of the Var, the scene is one of savage dreariness.

The road continues on the l. bank of the river high above its bed; until, leaving the side of the hill upon which the fort of St. Vincent is placed, a very difficult path leads down to the river, which is crossed to arrive at the little village of Ubaye.

From this place, one road passes down by the river to its confluence with the Durance at La Brioule; and another, up the side of the mountain to the Col de Pontis, which leads to Savines on the Durance, in the high-

road from Gap to Embrun, which is distant from Savines 8 m.

From the ascent to the Col de Pontis, on looking back towards the valley of the Ubaye, the hill of St. Vincent is a strikingly fine object, surmounted by forts which formerly guarded the entrance to the valley of Barcelonette, when it was under the dominion of Sardinia. By a wise arrangement it was ceded to France, in exchange for the valleys of Pragelas and Exilles, when the states of France and Sardinia prudently agreed upon the chain of the high Alps as their line of demarcation.

*Embrun.* (See HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE.)

## ROUTE 168.

DIGNE, IN THE VALLEY OF THE DURANCE, TO BARCELONETTE, BY COLMAR AND ALOS.

Instead of following the high road to Gap, the route of the diligence, the traveller who, from Marseilles and Digne, would approach the Alps sooner, may reach them by an interesting line of route either on horseback or on foot, and pass through scenes little known to English rambles. From *Digne*, a valley of rather Alpine character, and therefore welcome to the traveller, who is glad to escape from the parched plains of France, leads by the village of Drays to the *Col du Tour*, where there are fine pasturages, and which is reached

into Piedmont. The path by the western *Col de Longet*, called sometimes the *Col de Cula*, is that which leads to St. Veran; it ascends to the left, and divides the valleys of Maurin and St. Veran. The ascent is quite pathless and often over patches of snow; the crest has a great elevation—10,345 English feet (?). It is attained in 4 hours from Majasset: the view from it is stupendous; on one hand towards Monte Viso, which appears quite close, and on the other to the Dauphiny Alps, which are nowhere so finely seen as from this point. Scarcely a trace of vegetation is to be seen on the summit. A very steep descent leads, in 2½ hrs., to St. Veran, a populous village, placed at the great elevation of 6693 English feet above the level of the sea, being probably the highest village, with the same amount of population, in Europe. Around it barley and rye are cultivated; the former to the elevation of nearly 7000 feet.

*St. Veran* is situated in a remarkably verdant and well-watered valley of the same name. Its appearance, when seen for the first time, is extraordinary; for, instead of houses, it seems to be a mass of space and scaffolding; the houses are built entirely of wood, except that sometimes they rest on a basement of stone, which incloses the stable, a common but dirty practice in the high villages of the French Alps. Around the houses they invariably construct a sort of veranda or gallery, with a roof projecting 6 or 8 feet, and fitted up with the sort of scaffolding which gives so odd an appearance, at first sight, to the village; the purpose of this scaffolding is to enable the inhabitants to dry their ill-ripened corn under the shelter of the projecting roofs: their harvests generally take place early in the autumn, before the frosts set in, the seed having been sown in the July of the preceding year. St. Veran offers no accommodation whatever to travellers, unless the curé can be induced to afford

hospitality. The filthy habits of the people are most offensive, arising chiefly from their custom of living with the cattle in the stables, and this even among persons of property.

The Protestants are very numerous at St. Veran, consisting of twenty-four families; a Protestant Church has lately been erected there; but as the pastor, M. Ermann, who succeeded Felix Neff, resides at La Chalpe, the service is neither frequent nor regular.

Here were occasionally exercised the devoted services of Neff, "the modern Apostle of the Alps." The Protestant communities of St. Veran, Foussillarde, Frassynière, Dorme-leuse, &c., some of these places being above 40 m. apart from others, formed the extensive district where he laboured in his ministry with a devotion and energy to which his health and life were at last sacrificed.

The Roman Catholic church of St. Veran is situated near the highest part of the long straggling village. On its wall is cut, "1041 toises sur la mer."

The house of the curé adjoining is the only stone dwelling in the place.

From St. Veran an agreeable road leads down the valley to *Queiras*, a village which gives its name to the district in the valley of the Guil, and thence to *Briançon* (Rte. 169). But if the object of the traveller be to visit Abries and the upper valley of the Guil, he may attain this through scenes of grander character than those presented by the road through *Queiras*, and by a path 4 hrs. shorter than that through the valley of the Guil. In either case he should not fail to notice a singular geological fact near *Pra*, on the opposite side of the torrent descending from St. Veran. The slopes have been covered with extremely hard blocks of the diallage rock of the neighbourhood. In one place these have rested on a friable slaty limestone; by weather and melting snow have gradually washed the soil from around these blocks, which have served as protection to that immediately beneath them, and thus pillars, not *sculp-*

Gothic pinnacles, which, in some cases, have an elevation of 100 ft., have been left, with these boulders for their capitals, presenting an extraordinary appearance, with an obvious origin. A similar geological phenomenon is presented in some other valleys of the French Alps, and in the Tyrol at Ober-Botzen, not far from Botzen, in the valley of the Adige.—*F.*

### ROUTE 170.

BRIANÇON OR MONT DAUPHIN TO GRENOBLE, BY VAL LOUISE AND LA BERARDE.

This work does not profess to give a complete account of the French Alps, for which, indeed, the materials scarcely exist; but it is sought in the present edition to direct further attention to the magnificent scenery about the Mont Pelvoux, the monarch of the western Alps. Nothing but the utter want of decent accommodation has prevented travellers from giving the attention which it deserves to a group of snowy Alps ranking next in height and importance to the Bernese Oberland. The only place where the most moderate degree of comfort can be expected is at Venos, which is inconveniently distant from the higher part of the range; elsewhere the traveller must in every sense be prepared to rough it.

The best mode of approaching the higher peaks of the Pelvoux is by *Val Louise*, on the S.E. side. The village called *Ville de Val Louise*, about 4 hrs. from Briançon, 1½ hr. by a rough char-road from *Abessé* on the great

road to Gap, has a poor and dirty *Inn*, with very rough quarters. The village may also be reached in a char in about 4 hrs. from Guillestre.

"The ascent of the Grand Pelvoux may be made from Val Louise. Pierre Claude Semiond, guide, of Le Clos, asserts that he reached the summit with General Durand. He knows the country well, but is an indifferent mountaineer."

"To gain the summit it is necessary to pass the night under a rock called the *Cabane des Bergers de Provence*. The valley is ascended at l'Alefred, 2¼ hrs. from the Ville, where milk, butter, and black bread may be obtained. After ascending the *Combe de Sasseneire* some little distance, the traveller climbs up the rocks on his rt., and reaches the *Cabane* easily in 2 hrs. from l'Alefred. This so-called *Cabane*, between 7000 and 7500 ft. above the sea, is by no means an agreeable resting-place. From thence it is believed that the peak called *Grand Pelvoux* may be easily reached in 6 to 8 hrs. But it is probable that this is not the highest point in the group. An attempted ascent by the writer was defeated by bad weather half-way between the *Cabane* and the summit."

"In the *Combe de Sasseneire* below the *Cabane* is the cave called the 'Balme Chapela,' where the Protestants of Val Louise were destroyed at the time of the Vandois persecutions."

Several passes, for the most part very high and rather difficult, lead from Val Louise into the neighbouring valleys. The principal of these are—1, the *Col d'Argentière*, leading to the valley of the Drac; 2, *Col de l'Echauda* to Monestier; 3, the *Col de la Tempe*, leading to La Berarde, in the valley of St. Christophe, over the shoulder of the Mont Pelvoux, a high and difficult pass. La Berarde may also be reached from Val Louise by the Val Godemar and the *Col de Sais*.

Professor Forbes has given an account of his passage of the *Col de Sais*. Like the last, it is merely a hunter's pass, fit only for practised mountaineers. He reckons 6½ hrs.

from La Berarde to reach the summit, over 10,000 feet above the sea. La Berarde, the highest hamlet in the valley of St. Christophe, contains a very poor *Inn*. Besides those already mentioned, several other passes diverge from here. The only guide well acquainted with the high mountains around is the younger Rodier, who makes unreasonable demands for his services. About 4 hrs. below La

Berarde is Venos, where there is a very fair *Inn*, the only one in the district.

The scenery of the valley of St. Christophe is of the grandest character, and extremely well rewards those who explore it. About 4 hrs. from Venos is Bourg d'Oysans (E. 159). There is a pass from the village of St. Christophe to La Grave by the Val du Diable.

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## I N D E X.

\*,\* In order to facilitate reference to the Routes, most of them are repeated in the Index twice : thus, GENEVA to Chamouni is also mentioned under the head Chamouni \* to Geneva. Such *reversed* Routes are marked in the Index with an asterisk to distinguish them.

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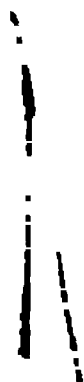
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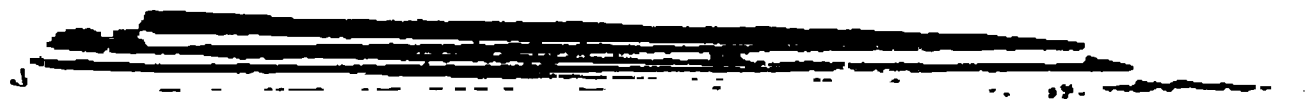
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